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Battlefield TECH

Land Warrior System keeps
troops connected during missions

By SCOTT FONTAINE
McClatchy Newspapers

TACOMA, Wash. — The infantry company approached unseen through the thick of the forest. Inside one building in the mock village on Fort Lewis sat the target of the day's raid. Ten other men sporting Taliban-style robes and assault rifles roamed the streets.

Before the assault, the 120 Stryker Brigade soldiers fanned out across the village perimeter. Snipers set up rifles and tuned scopes. Soldiers carrying Squad Automatic

Weapons prepared to lay suppressive fire.

With the sudden crackle of gunfire, the raid began. Soldiers from 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division stormed in and cleared each building, using blank ammunition and role players. The exercise was one of countless such operations at Fort Lewis.

But there was one major difference: A handful of soldiers were tracking their troops' location through the Land Warrior System, from the mission's planning stages to its finish.

SEE SYSTEM ON PAGE 7

PETER HALEY, TACOMA
(WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE
MCT

Staff Sgt. Mark Gravsky shows his Land Warrior System display during a training session involving the 4-23 Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade last month at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Did a toxic
chemical in Iraq
cause soldiers'
illnesses?

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Navy: Making
rank of chief
petty officer is
getting tougher

Page 9



**Sarah Palin says she will resign
as Alaska's governor Page 16**

An Iraq vet, Rep. Murphy takes helm of 'don't ask, don't tell' fight

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Rep. Patrick Murphy wants to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" as soon as possible, with or without the president's help.

"I don't work for the president," the Pennsylvania Democrat said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "We don't need to wait."

This week Murphy, a former Army captain who served in Iraq, will take over as lead sponsor of the House bill to repeal the 16-year-old law banning homosexuals from serving openly in the military.

His office will unveil a new public push



Murphy

on the issue Wednesday: Face-to-face visits with every member of the House on the issue, a Web site listing facts and myths about the rule, and a goal of passing the legislation this year.

The White House last week reiterated its goal of overturning the law, and Obama spoke on

the issue at a reception with gay advocacy groups.

SEE POLICY ON PAGE 2

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"In my view, it was proper that this case was dismissed, primarily because I simply did not do what the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles accused me of doing."

—Lori Drew, who was prosecuted for her role in a MySpace hoax directed at a 13-year-old girl who ended up committing suicide

See story on Page 18

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ON STRIPES.COM

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2. 'Well worth the wait'
3. What Congress can and can't do for troops, families
4. Tobacco tax affecting AAFES, NEX prices
5. New Navy 'cammies' trickle into fleet

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Gay sailor's death investigated

NCIS takes 'person of interest' into custody, but no charges filed

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The death of a gay sailor who was killed as he stood guard at Camp Pendleton doesn't appear to be a hate crime, officials said Thursday.

Seaman August Provost of Houston was found shot multiple times Tuesday in what investigators are calling a random act unrelated to the 29-year-old's sexuality.

"It is clear to the investigators right now that it could have been any sailor standing

watch," Navy spokesman Capt. Matt Brown said.

Some in the gay community had called for a hate crimes probe. Nicole Murray-Ramirez, chairman of the San Diego Human Relations Commission, said Provost's family told her that personnel on the base had been harassing the sailor.

Democratic Rep. Bob Filner of San Diego, who chairs the House Veterans Affairs Committee, said he would call for a Defense Department probe to see if the killing was a hate

crime.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service has taken a "person of interest" into custody but had not filed any charges. Navy officials said he had made incriminating statements that tied him to the killing, though these statements did not constitute a confession.

Another sailor was questioned and released Wednesday.

Brown said Provost's killer burned the guard shack to cover up evidence.

Policy: Murphy believes 'don't ask' hurts national security

POLICY, FROM PAGE 1

"I know that every day that passes without a resolution is a deep disappointment to those men and women who continue to be discharged under this policy," Obama said. "But what I hope is that these cases underscore the urgency of reversing this policy not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it is essential for our national security."

Gay rights advocates point out that Obama still has yet to show real progress on his campaign promise to change the law. Since the start of his presidency 277 troops have been discharged under the law, and about 13,000 have been discharged since 1994.

Liberal think tank Center for American Progress released a road map for repeal last month,

calling for a simultaneous executive order stopping the law and legislative action in an effort to move the issue ahead.

"The longer you wait on this issue, the longer it takes to seize momentum," said Lawrence Korb, senior fellow at the center. "Congress can take the lead on this. It was Congress over opposition from the military that dropped the ban on women flying combat aircraft and serving on combat ships."

Korb and some advocacy groups have argued that Obama need not wait for Congress, and could simply overturn the law on his own with a wartime executive order allowing gays to serve openly.

But both the White House and congressional leaders have stated that changes must come from the legislative branch, and officials from the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network have argued that such an order could be vulnerable to legal challenges.

Opponents of repealing the "don't ask" law are girding for a fight.

"If they go ahead with this, there are going to be protests, there are going to be lawsuits, and this is going to be taken to court," said the Rev. Billy Baugham, executive director of the International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers.

Baugham said he believes any



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Gay rights advocates are waiting for President Barack Obama to make progress on his promise to change "don't ask, don't tell."

change in the "don't ask" law will face an immediate legal challenge. His group is lobbying lawmakers to leave the law alone, but he said he would not rule out lawsuits to block servicemembers from serving openly.

"This is a matter of readiness, and it's going to break down the relationship between soldiers who are forced into close quarters," he said. "'Don't ask, don't tell' is fine at this point, and for that to be destroyed is criminal and outrageous."

Murphy is unconcerned about those challenges. He believes Congress can still repeal the law this year, and thinks his experience in the ranks will help convince some reluctant lawmakers

to support the change.

"People ask why does an Irish-Catholic guy who's straight and married care so much about [overturning] 'don't ask, don't tell,'" he said. "And I tell them it's because this is something I believe in. It's a failed policy that hurts national security."

"We all knew people who were gay, and it didn't affect their job," he said. "It didn't affect me personally. But they were discriminated against, and that shouldn't be."

Murphy's Web site advocating a change in the law — www.letthemserve.com — will launch Wednesday.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Correction

A June 26 story about Spc. Moonsammy Narinesammy's wife's struggle to stay in the United States should have said that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials are conducting an investigation that could eventually deport Ratashwarie Narinesammy.

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Left: Students at Daesungdong Elementary School in the DMZ and U.S. soldiers, who serve there as English teachers, attend a school assembly last month.

Below: Students perform a musical.

PHOTOS BY
JON RABIROFF
Stars and Stripes
Stars and Stripes
photo illustration

Borderline instruction



Despite threats from N. Korea, kids attend DMZ school to get English help from GIs

BY JON RABIROFF
Stars and Stripes

DEMILITARIZED ZONE, Korea — Fifth-grader Peter Kim boards a bus most mornings that takes him through a series of gates manned by armed soldiers to a school less than a mile from the North Korea border.

"My parents wanted me to go here because it is a good place to learn English, and we can study hard in this place," the boy said.

He attends Daesungdong Elementary School, which lies amid the heavily armed DMZ and is visited twice a week by English-teaching U.S. soldiers.

What his family, friends and school officials apparently don't think much about is any threat that might be posed by the political posturing of North Korea, which has warned of military action against South Korea and the United States repeatedly in recent weeks.

"I think the North Korean people are very poor and very angry," Peter said, adding that he and his classmates have little or no interest in what is going on just to the north of their school.

U.S. Army Spc. Jacob Wilderman, who has been teaching at the school for several months, said that if the children of Daesungdong are at all concerned about North Korea, they don't show it. "They are just like any other kids," he said. "They focus on kid things."

Last month, the 30 students of the DMZ held an assembly during which small groups danced and sang along in English to songs like The Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and The Carpenters' "Top of the World."

After the presentation, U.S. soldiers manned tables for an "English market," during which students used play American money they had earned through their schoolwork to buy toys and food.

Were it not for the continuing participation of the U.S. military, the school likely would be shuttered. It used to draw students only from the village of Daesungdong, a product of the armistice signed in 1953 that put a halt to Korean War hostilities. The pact created the DMZ, and allowed for one village inside its boundaries on both sides of the demarcation line.

While North Korea's DMZ village, Gijong-dong, remains uninhabited,

Daesungdong has nearly 200 residents, who are either direct descendants of the original villagers or women who have married into the village.

Unless granted a special waiver, they must spend at least 240 nights per year in the village to maintain residency. That allows the residents to farm about 10 times more land than the average Korean farmer, earn about \$82,000 a year and pay no taxes.

They are governed by the United Nations Command, must be escorted out to



Daesungdong Elementary students sing songs in English for classmates and U.S. soldiers.

the fields by soldiers and are locked into their homes by 11 p.m. every night.

Principal Kim Doek-won explained, through an interpreter, that in 2006 the school had only nine students and was in danger of closing. Permission was given to draw students from outside the

village, but Daesungdong Elementary officials still had to give parents a reason to send their children into the DMZ every day.

Enter the U.S. military, and an agreement that brings eight soldiers to the school on Wednesdays and Fridays to teach English.

Today, only five of the school's 30 students are residents of Daesungdong, the principal said.

Homeroom teacher Jeon Jeong-hee said the soldiers create "good memories" and have "good experiences with the Korean students," while the children learn "real-situation English."

"In the classroom, we teach English according to textbooks," she explained. "But, the American Army soldiers, they speak ordinary English."

Army 1st Lt. Dane Schoonover said he volunteered to be a teacher because he saw it "as a great opportunity" to interact with the villagers and children.

He said the students are like those in any U.S. classroom.

"The one difference is that they are speaking a [second] language," Schoonover said. "It's uncommon for children at that age in the U.S. to do that."

Principal Kim said he hopes Daesungdong Elementary remains open for years to come as a "symbol of unity."

"The students who live here and the students from outside, they know very well that the school is situated within the DMZ," he said. "But they don't have any feelings of fear."

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Spc. Jacob Wilderman sells small toys to students at the "English market."



Army 1st Lt. Dane Schoonover sells treats to students at Daesungdong Elementary School during an "English market" held recently.



ED REINKE/AP



RICK BOWMER/AP



BRIAN BOHANNON/AP

From left: Iraq war veteran Russ Kimberling poses in Louisville, Ky., with a photo of himself and a young Iraqi child taken during his tour of duty in the summer of 2003. Sickened Iraq veteran Larry Roberta covers his face while testifying before the House Rules Committee at the Oregon Capitol in Salem, Ore. Steve Moore remembers his brother, David, at his grave in Dubois, Ind. Kimberling and Roberta and the late 1st Sgt. Moore believe they were severely injured by exposure to chemicals during their service.

war'stoxiclegacy

Is chemical exposure
killing U.S. troops?

By Sharon Cohen
The Associated Press

Larry Roberta's every breath is a painful reminder of his time in Iraq. He can't walk a block without gasping for air. His chest hurts, his migraines sometimes persist for days and he needs pills to help him sleep. ¶ James Gentry came home with rashes, ear troubles and a shortness of breath. Later, things got much worse: He developed lung cancer, which spread to his spine, ribs and one of his thighs; he often uses a cane and no longer rides his beloved Harley. ¶ David Moore's postwar life turned into a harrowing medical mystery: nosebleeds and labored breathing that made it impossible to work, much less speak. His desperate search for answers ended last year when he died of lung disease at age 42.

What these three men had in common is they were National Guard soldiers on the same stretch of wind-swept desert in Iraq during the early months of the war in 2003.

These soldiers and hundreds of other Guard members from Indiana, Oregon and West Virginia were protecting workers hired by a subsidiary of the giant contractor, KBR Inc., to rebuild an Iraqi water treatment plant. The area, as it turned out, was contaminated with hexavalent chromium, a potent, sometimes deadly chemical linked to cancer and other devastating diseases.

No one disputes that. But that's where agreement ends.

Among the issues now rippling from the courthouse to Capitol Hill are whether the chemical made people sick, when KBR knew it was there and how the company responded. But the debate has raised broader questions about private contractors and health risks in war zones.

Questions — says Sen. Evan Bayh, who plans to hold hearings on the issues — such as these:

“How should we treat exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals as a threat to our soldiers? How seriously should that threat be taken? What is the role of private contractors? What about the potential conflict between their profit motives and taking all steps necessary to protect our soldiers?”

“This case,” says the Indiana Democrat, “has brought to light the need for systemic reform.”

For now, dozens of National Guard veterans have sued KBR and two subsidiaries, accusing them of minimizing and concealing the chemical's dangers, then downplaying nosebleeds and breathing problems as nothing more than sand allergies or a reaction to desert air.

KBR denies any wrongdoing. In a statement, the company said it actually found the chemical at the Qarmat Ali plant, restricted access, cleaned it up and “did not knowingly harm troops.”

Ten civilians hired by a KBR subsidiary made similar claims against the company in an arbitration resolved privately in June.

This isn't the first claim that toxins have harmed soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan; there have been allegations involving lead, depleted uranium and sarin gas.

This also isn't the first challenge to KBR, whose billions of dollars of war-related contracts have been the subject of congressional scrutiny and numerous legal claims.

A dangerous chemical

Some veterans advocates say the military is more attuned to health risks than it was in Vietnam and the Gulf

War, but still falls short.

“I'm a realist — things are going to get burned, things are going to be blown up,” says Tom Tarantino, an Iraqi veteran and policy associate at the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. “But I think the DOD could do a better job at tracking what people are exposed to.”

This isn't a natural fit, he concedes, because the Defense Department “is a war-fighting agency, not an environmental protection agency. But I think there's a lack of information out there.”

This case stems from the chaotic start of the war in 2003 when a KBR subsidiary was hired to restart the ransacked plant. The Iraqis had used hexavalent chromium to prevent pipe corrosion at the plant, which produced industrial water used in oil production.

Hexavalent chromium can cause severe liver and kidney damage and studies have linked it to leukemia as well as bone, stomach, brain and other cancers, according to an expert who provided a deposition for the civilian workers.

The chemical “is one of the most potent carcinogens known to man” and it can “enter every cell of the body and potentially produce widespread injury to every major organ in the body,” said Max Costa, chairman of New York University's Department of Environmental Medicine.

KBR, however, says studies show only that industrial workers exposed to

the chemical for more than two years have an increased risk of cancer — and in this case, soldiers were at the plant just days or months.

The company also notes air quality studies concluded the Indiana Guard soldiers were not exposed to high levels of hexavalent chromium. But Costa says those tests were done when the wind was not blowing.

‘I was spitting blood’

Both soldiers and former workers say there were days when strong gusts kicked up ripped-open bags of the chemical, creating a yellow-orange haze that coated everything from their hair to their boots.

“I was spitting blood and I was not the only one doing that,” recalls Larry Langford, who worked for the KBR subsidiary. “The wind was blowing 30, 40 miles an hour. You could just hardly see where you were going. I pulled my shirt over my nose and there would be blood on it. I also saw the soldiers. They had blood splashes on their masks.”

Larry Roberta, a 44-year-old former Oregon National Guard member, remembers a strange metallic taste and dust everywhere. He sat on a bag of the chemical, unaware it was dangerous.

“This orange crud blew up in your face, your eyes and on our food,” he says.

SEE TOXIC, PAGE 5

Toxic: KBR claims it is unfairly targeted, cites military review

TOXIC, FROM PAGE 4

"I tried to wash my chicken patty off with my canteen. I started to get sick to my stomach right away."

Roberta had coughing spells and agonizing chest pains, he says, that "went all the way through my back. Whenever I breathed, the pain got more sharp. ... Every day I went there, I had something weird going on."

Russell Kimberling, a former Indiana National Guard captain, had severe sinus troubles that forced his evacuation to Germany. After returning, he became alarmed one August day in 2003 while escorting some officials to the plant in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

"I jumped out of the truck and I turned around and [KBR's] staff had full chemical gear on," he says. "I looked at some of my soldiers and said, 'This can't be very good.'"

Ed Blacke, hired as plant health, safety and environmental coordinator, says he became worried after workers started having breathing problems and a former colleague sent him an internal KBR memo outlining the chemical's dangers. Blacke says when he complained at a meeting, he was labeled a troublemaker and resigned under pressure.

"Normally when you take over a job, you have a briefing — this is what's out there, here's what you need for protective equipment," says Blacke, who testified at a Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing last year. "There was nothing, nothing at all."

Blacke and Langford were among those whose civil claims were resolved in arbitration.

Kimberling is among nearly 50 current or former Guard members — most from Indiana, a smaller number from Oregon — who've sued. Some soldiers who were part of the West Virginia Guard are expected to follow soon.



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Former KBR employee Danny Langford relaxes with bulldog, Deuce, on his son's deck in Texas City, Texas. Langford said that after exposure to a chemical used by KBR in Iraq, "I was spitting blood ..."

Mike Doyle, the Houston lawyer representing the soldiers and civilians, maintains KBR knew as early as May 2003 the chemical was there, but didn't close the site until that September.

"Once [KBR] found out about it, they didn't tell anybody and they did everything to conceal it," he contends. "You have [KBR] managers in Houston, in Kuwait City who knew about this. Their staff was getting reports and soldiers and civilians who were in the field were told, 'No big deal. There's nothing to worry about.'"

The lawsuit cites minutes of an August 2003 KBR meeting that mentions "serious health problems at the water treatment plant" and notes "almost 60 percent of the people now exhibit the symptoms."

KBR's response

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, KBR chairman William P. Utt suggested the company be given some latitude with its military contracts.

"We think there ought to be some consideration given in many of these claims to the same protections the government has from these suits that exist," he said.

He also said KBR has been unfairly targeted in war zones. "People think there's an opportunity here in Iraq, let's paint it on KBR, then we'll worry about making the facts precise or correct later," Utt said.

As for the water plant, KBR says once it learned of the chemical, it took precautions to protect workers, notified the Army Corps of Engineers and led the cleanup. It says the Corps had previously deemed the area safe.

KBR also points to Army tests of 137 Indiana Guard soldiers that showed no medical prob-

lems that could be linked to exposure, as well as a military board review that found it unlikely anyone would suffer long-term medical consequences.

But Bayh and Doyle say those tests were done too late to be valid and note that soil tests were taken after the contaminated area was covered with asphalt and gravel.

Looking forward

Bayh has introduced a bill calling for a special medical registry that would require the Department of Defense to notify all military members of exposure to potential toxins — and provide comprehensive medical care. (It would be limited to those serving after Sept. 11, 2001.)

All these measures come too late for 1st Sgt. David Moore, who served with Gentry.

He thought his persistent cough in Iraq would stop when he returned home. Instead, breathing became difficult; he eventually needed a chair in the shower because he could no longer stand, says his brother, Steve.

"He was always upbeat," his brother says. "He said, 'They'll figure it out, they'll figure it out.' He thought that until the last time I talked to him. You could see the

fear in his eyes. They had him on 100 percent oxygen and he still couldn't breathe. He requested to be put on a ventilator so they could figure it out."

Moore died in February 2008. The cause was lung disease. His death was ruled service-related. His brother believes it was hexavalent chromium.

Larry Roberta, the former Oregon Guardsman who needed stomach surgery after his return, still has physical and emotional problems: Post-traumatic stress. Mood swings. Nose polyps. Chest pains. Migraines that can keep him bedridden for days. He takes two inhalers — he can't walk a block without them.

"I have 100 percent disability," he says. "I've got a long laundry list of things that happened to me while I was there. If you add it all up, I'd be almost 200 percent disabled."

Roberta recently testified before Oregon lawmakers, urging them to set aside money for Guard members who develop cancer from exposure to the chemical.

His wife, Michelle, says her husband's illness has dramatically changed his outlook.

"He has no ambitions for life anymore," she says. "At his age, that makes me very sad. I worry about him every day."



JARED FAWKS/AP

1st Sgt. David L. Moore poses during a photo taken while he was serving in the National Guard in Iraq. Moore's postwar life turned into a harrowing medical mystery: nosebleeds and labored breathing that made it impossible to work, much less speak. His search for answers ended in 2008 when he died of lung disease at age 42.

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Lynndie England haunted by Abu Ghraib memories

By P.J. DICKERSCHIED
AND VICKI SMITH
The Associated Press

KEYSER, W.Va. — More than two years since leaving her prison cell, the woman who became the grinning face of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal spends most of her days in her home.

Former Army reservist Lynndie England hasn't landed a job in numerous tries: When a restaurant manager considered hiring her, other employees threatened to quit.

She doesn't like to travel: Strangers point and whisper, "That's her!"

In fact, she doesn't leave the house much at all, limiting her outings mostly to grocery runs.

"I don't have a social life," she said. "I sit at home all day."

She's tried dyeing her dark brown hair, wearing sunglasses and ball caps. She even thought about changing her name. But "it's my face that's always recognized," she said, "and I can't really change that."

England hopes a biography released this month and a book tour will help rehabilitate an image associated with the plight of the mis-

treated prisoners.

It's difficult to forget the pictures that shocked millions in 2004: In one, she holds a restraint around a man's neck; in another, she's giving a thumbs-up and pointing at the genitals of naked, hooded men.

"They think that I was like this evil torturer. ... I wasn't," she said. "People don't realize I was just in a photo for a split second in time."

In an interview with The Associated Press to promote her biography, "Tortured: Lynndie England, Abu Ghraib and the Photographs that Shocked the World," 26-year-old England said she's paid her dues and repeatedly apologized.

While admitting she made some bad decisions, England said it wasn't her place to question the "softening-up" treatments sanctioned long before she arrived.

"We were just pawns," said England, who's appealing her conviction; her next hearing is in July. "People were just playing us."

A jury of five Army officers, however, rejected England's claims that she was only following orders and trying to please the father of her child, former Cpl. Charles Graner Jr., who's currently imprisoned for his role.

Christopher Graveline, the lead prosecutor at her trial said England and the other defendants may present their side to the media.

"But they presented the same facts to the jury, and the jury rejected them," he said.

England was convicted of conspiracy, mistreating detainees and committing an indecent act, one of 11 soldiers found guilty of wrongdoing at Abu Ghraib.

Since April, when newly released memos revealed the Bush administration had sanctioned certain "enhanced interrogation" tactics, some have called for pardons of soldiers like England.

Graveline rejects such calls.

He and investigator Michael Clemens have their own book coming out in January, "The Secrets of Abu Ghraib Revealed: American Soldiers on Trial," which they say aims to correct misinformation.

"The idea that she and her colleagues were working somehow for military intelligence is not supported by fact," he said.

After serving half of a three-year sentence, England returned to friends and family in Fort Ashby, a quiet town of about 1,300 some 150 miles west of Washington.

"Some days I liked her. Some



VICKI SMITH/AP

Lynndie England, a former Army reservist who was the face of the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, poses in Keyser, W.Va., on June 17.

days I hated her," biographer Gary Winkler said. "Some days I thought she should be in prison still, and some days I felt sorry for her."

England said she struggles with depression, post-traumatic stress

disorder and anxiety.

A memorable jab came when a stranger suggested her mom "shoot herself for raising somebody like me, and that I should kill my baby and kill myself, or give up my child for adoption."



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The Land Warrior System allows users to see the locations of fellow soldiers and track their motion.

The pack weighs about 8 pounds and features a rotating eyepiece, a handheld controller, a backpack with a computer, radio and geospatial locating equipment.

It syncs up with computers inside Stryker vehicles and with stand-alone laptops away from the battlefield.

Each unit costs \$48,000 per soldier.

The 5th Brigade — deploying to Afghanistan later this month — will take 895 Land Warrior systems with them into the war zone.

System: Helping GIs on ground work efficiently

SYSTEM, FROM PAGE 1

Land Warrior is real-time network the Army believes should make missions in Iraq and Afghanistan quicker, more efficient and less prone to accidents.

An earlier version was field-tested by a single Fort Lewis Stryker battalion in Iraq. Now it moves to the big stage — an entire brigade, in a different war-torn country.

"I used it on every mission we went on, and frankly, it was one of the best pieces of equipment we had over there," said Staff Sgt. Dennis Davis, who used Land Warrior during his 2007 Iraq deployment with the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

"It helps with situational awareness on the battlefield," Davis said. "I can't imagine doing a mission now without the luxury of having it."

The system allows users to see the locations of fellow soldiers and track their motion, among other features.

Each pack weighs about 8 pounds and features a rotating eyepiece, a handheld controller and a backpack with a computer, radio and geospatial-locating equipment.

It syncs up with computers inside Stryker vehicles and with stand-alone laptops away from the battlefield.

The soldiers of 5th Brigade began deploying to southern Afghanistan in June and should see less urban combat than previous Stryker deployments to Iraq. But each unit in the brigade will receive Land Warrior.

Team leaders, squad leaders, platoon leaders, platoon sergeants and higher will all be equipped with the system.

The two Fort Lewis Stryker brigades deploying later this year to Iraq have requested the system but are unlikely to receive it before they leave, said John Geddes, the Land Warrior trail boss at Fort Lewis.

The system — which includes the computer subsystem, batteries, hardware-encrypted radios, the eyepiece, controller, laptop and other hardware — costs \$48,000 per soldier.

The 5th Brigade is taking 895 systems to Afghanistan.

When a soldier looks in his eyepiece, he sees an aerial map of the battlefield — either a drawn map or a satellite image — and the location of the troops. Commanders can program coordinates and routes before each mission so the troops know where they are and where to go. This can be particularly useful in unfamiliar urban



Sgt. Matthew Atchley looks at the map of the battle space during a training exercise.

terrain.

The ability to pinpoint locations of individual troops and text message via a keyboard on the controller should cut down on radio chatter. That means less time communicating to set up a mission and, leaders say, less chance of friendly-fire accidents.

If a soldier is hurt, he can press a button that calls for a medic.

Land Warrior allows a user to click on an icon on the map and get instant information about who that person is and where they've been. Others who are away from the battlefield — such as in a vehicle or a unit's tactical operations center — can follow the information in real-time.

But Land Warrior is specifically designed to help troops on the ground work more efficiently, said Lt. Col. Burton Shields, commander of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment.

"It allows you to operate faster," Shields said. "You don't have to stop to radio in reports. You don't stop to do map checks. It allows you to be more decentralized."

"You can spread out more because you know where folks are, and you don't have to maintain as tight of control," he said. "It prevents fratricide because you know where everyone is."

The system won true believers among 4th Stryker Brigade on its Iraq tour two years ago. The soldiers of 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment were assigned to Diyala province as part of the troop "surge" and fought a raging insurgency.

Davis was a weapons squad leader on that deployment and is now preparing to return to Iraq this fall with the same battalion. He said he and others weren't sold on Land Warrior during their pre-deployment training in 2007.

"But as soon as we got in Iraq, I fell in love with that system," the 28-year-old Tacoma resident said. "We'd jump off the helicopter, and within seconds we knew exactly where we were and exactly where the target was. You don't really need to communicate through the radio to find out where others are or pull a piece of paper out of your

pocket to find out where you need to go."

There are limitations. The system operates on a peer-to-peer basis, turning each radio into a relay, but it also works on a line-of-sight basis, so soldiers inside buildings or other structures can drop off the grid.

The terrain of Afghanistan — known for forbidding mountains and steep valleys — could interfere with that as well.

Some 5th Brigade soldiers have questioned the effectiveness of its use in Afghanistan. The terrain is punishing, and the extra 8 pounds will make climbing in the thin mountain air even tougher.

And outside the cities, there could be far fewer scripted missions in which soldiers conduct flash raids inside buildings.

"I definitely see the application in Iraq, in an urban environment," said Capt. Edward Graham, a company commander with 5th Brigade who has deployed to both countries. "But when you're at 9,000 feet, sometimes you have to decide what's appropriate."



PHOTOS BY PETER HALEY, TACOMA (WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE/MCT

Members of the U.S. Army's 4-23 Infantry Regiment of the 5th Stryker Brigade use the new version of the Land Warrior System during a training session in Regensburg, a mock village at Fort Lewis, Washington. The Land Warrior System gives leaders a hands-free, up-to-the-minute map of the battle space.

Marines pushing deeper into Helmand province

By JASON STRAZIUSO
AND CHRIS BRUMMITT
The Associated Press

NAWA, Afghanistan — U.S. Marines pushed deeper into Taliban areas of southern Afghanistan on Friday, seeking to cut insurgent supply lines and win over local elders on the second day of the biggest U.S. military operation here since the American-led invasion of 2001.

On the other side of the border, U.S. missiles struck a Pakistani Taliban militant training center and communications center, killing 17 people and wounding nearly 30, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Both U.S. operations were aimed at what President Barack Obama considers as the biggest dangers in the region: a resurgent Taliban-led insurgency allied with al-Qaida that threatens both nuclear-armed Pakistan and the U.S.-backed government in Afghanistan.

The 4,000-strong U.S. force met little resistance Friday as troops fanned out into villages in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, although one Marine was killed and several others were wounded the day before, U.S. officials said.

Despite minimal contact, the Marines could see militants using flashlights late Thursday to signal one another about American troop movements.

Military spokesman Capt. Bill Pelletier said the goal of the Helmand operation was not simply to kill Taliban fighters but to win over the local population — a difficult task in a region where foreigners are viewed with suspicion.

Marines also hope to cut the routes used by militants to funnel weapons, ammunition and fighters from Pakistan to the Taliban, which mounted an increasingly violent insurgency since its hard-line Islamist government was toppled in 2001 by an international coalition.

The new U.S. operation will test the Obama administration's new strategy of holding territory to let the Afghan government establish a presence in rural areas where Taliban influence is strong.

As Operation Khanjar, or "Strike of the Sword," entered its second day, Marines took control of the district centers of Nawa and Garmser, and negotiated entry into Khan Neshin, the capital of Rig district, Pelletier said.

In Nawa, Marines met with about 20 Af-

ghan men and boys, seeking to reassure them that the Americans wanted to protect them from the Taliban.

"Are you going to enter our houses?" asked Mohammad Nabi, 25, who was there with five of his younger brothers. "We are afraid that you will leave, and the Taliban will come back."

They also complained that local police were thieves not to be trusted.

Marine officers promised not to enter homes and said they would remain in the area to keep out the Taliban.

One elder asked the Marines whether they would prevent residents from saying Muslim prayers. The troops assured him they would not.

In one village near Nawa, however, the atmosphere was tense.

"When we asked if they had a village elder or mullah for the American commander to talk to, the answer was no," said Capt. Drew Schoenmaker, a Marine company commander. "It's fear of reprisal. Fear and intimidation is one thing the enemy does very well."

Taking territory from the Taliban has always proved easier than holding it. The challenge is especially great in Helmand

because it is a center of Afghanistan's thriving opium production, and drug profits feed both the insurgency and corrupt government officials.

On Wednesday, a British lieutenant colonel was killed in an explosion in Helmand. Lt. Col. Rupert Thorneloe, commander of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, was the highest-ranking British officer killed in Afghanistan.

The missile attacks in Pakistan on Friday occurred about 620 miles east of Helmand in the rugged South Waziristan region, according to two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The area is a Taliban stronghold close to the Afghan border where Pakistani troops are gearing up for a major offensive.

Two missiles struck an abandoned seminary in the village of Mantoi used as a training base by militants from Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud's group, the officials said. In the other strike, one missile hit an insurgent communications center in the nearby village of Kokat Khel, they said.

Americans, Iraqis join for Fourth

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

DIWANIYAH, Iraq — Iraqi sheiks, politicians and schoolchildren mingled with U.S. soldiers and civilians in a July Fourth celebration Friday that included red, white and blue streamers, a Stars and Stripes cake, hamburgers, fried chicken and other holiday fare.

The party, organized by the State Department's Qadisiyah Provincial Reconstruction Team for dozens of Iraqi guests at Forward Operating Base Echo, was a type of event seldom seen during the more than six years that U.S. forces have occupied the country.

This year Iraqis have also been invited to July Fourth celebrations at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and the Regional Embassy Office in Hillah. And there may be celebrations organized by other PRTs, which operate in every Iraqi province, according to Michael Kle-shski, team leader of the Qadisiyah PRT.

The patriotic expression of American traditions contrasts with U.S. forces' normal policy of minimizing their impact on local culture to the point where, at one point, American bases did not fly U.S. flags for fear of offending local people.

At FOB Echo, home to Task Force 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, the celebration started when Iraqi leaders and family members arrived at the base dining facility to mingle with soldiers and PRT members.

Kleshski told the guests that the Fourth of July is one of the most-loved and most important American holidays.

"It's a holiday when Americans of all nationalities and backgrounds get together to celebrate our country that we all really value," he said. "We also celebrate our democracy and our freedom. We are all very happy that in Iraq we are able to celebrate the same thing."

Task Force 1-2 commander Lt.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Patrick Douglas goes through the food line with an Iraqi guest during the Fourth of July party at Forward Operating Base Echo on Friday. Douglas, from Lanham, Md., serves with the 8th Military Transition Team, 172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Col. Steve Miska told the Iraqis that American culture is very informal.

"When we come together we don't have a seating arrangement or people who come to wait on us," he said. "We thought today we would teach you a little bit about that. When you get your food you serve yourself and you can sit anywhere and talk to whoever you want."

That style of eating contrasts with what Americans experience when they visit Iraqis, who typically wait on their guests during meals.

The Iraqis were soon lining up to fill plates with fried chicken, hamburgers, fresh fruit and cake before sitting down in plastic chairs to eat with the Americans.

PRT member Maj. Scott Barnett, 45, of Dallas, Texas, soon found himself explaining more about the holiday to the guests.

"It's a way we celebrate our free-

dom. A lot of people died in the past for it. We cherish our freedom in America.

"It's a way to remind ourselves how precious and delicate it is," he told the Iraqis.

Sheik Baji Abid Fnayekh Awad of the Bani Aridh tribe, had never heard of the holiday.

When he discovered that it celebrated a revolution against the British he was quick to point out that, in 1920, people in southern Iraq revolted against British rule.

"The battle happened in this area near Diwaniyah. The tribes here celebrate although it's not recognized by the Iraqi government," he said.

He then offered his congratulations to the Americans for their successful revolution.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsons@estripes.osd.mil



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Vice President Joseph Biden walks ahead of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and Gen. Ray Odierno at a U.S. military base near Baghdad.

Biden meets with top U.S. officials in Iraq

By KIM GAMEL
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Vice President Joe Biden discussed the future of the American mission in Iraq on Friday with the top two U.S. officials there following the withdrawal of most troops from the cities.

It was the vice president's first visit to Baghdad after being appointed to oversee the administration's Iraq policy.

Biden's arrival in Baghdad late Thursday came after all U.S. combat troops were pulled out of Iraq's cities and towns on Tuesday, as part of a security agreement that will see all American soldiers out of the country by the end of 2011.

The U.S. will gradually begin drawing down forces over the coming months until there are no combat troops left in Iraq by next August.

Biden had breakfast with Gen. Ray Odierno and Ambassador Christopher Hill, America's top soldier and diplomat in Iraq.

Biden's office said they discussed the withdrawal, the security situation in Iraq, the capabilities of Iraq forces and "efforts to make progress on the various outstanding political issues in the country."

During his three-day visit, Biden also will meet with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has been criticized for failing to take advantage of security gains to make political progress.

Biden's visit is the longest by a senior U.S. elected official. President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush never stayed more than a day.

Biden's son Beau is serving in Iraq with the Delaware National Guard.

Sailors who want to be chief face a tough field

Increased retention means more competition for billets

By SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Sailors are finding it tougher to make the coveted rank of chief petty officer in recent years, due to increased retention, especially in the senior pay grades, Navy officials said this week.

In fiscal 2010, just 18.77 percent of eligible sailors will make chief, compared to 20.19 percent this fiscal year.

There are more than 19,000 petty officers first class in the Navy eligible to make chief in the coming fiscal year.

Advancement to senior enlisted leadership positions is becoming more competitive and is at its lowest in about a decade, said Lt. Candice Tresch, a Navy spokeswoman.

Since 2004, the Navy has reduced the size of its force, including a 10 percent reduction in E-7 billets, she said.

"Now that the Navy has entered a period of stabilizing the force, we are closely monitoring the number of billets and advancement opportunity to ensure a balanced force in terms of skills, seniority and experience and to align advancement rates with the number of available billets," she said.

The Navy's advancement rate this year for E-7 was lower than that of the Air Force and Army. In the Air Force, 24.64 percent of eligible E-6s have been promoted so far in fiscal 2009; and in the Army, 29 percent have been promoted.

The Army and Air Force did not say how many E-7 billets would be available in fiscal 2010.

"Our policy is to keep promotion missions for upcoming boards close-held," said Army personnel spokeswoman Toni DeLancey. "We don't release any of that information until the list is officially released."

The Marine Corps did not respond to a Stars and Stripes request for promotion data.

The Navy makes a big deal out of making chief. Once promoted and "pinned" with their new anchors that signify the rank, chiefs don uniforms that, apart from the rank insignia, are the same as those worn by officers.

Those who want to get a leg up on making chief have resources to help.

"Talk to a mentor," recommended Petty Officer 1st Class Jorge Delgado, a Navy career counselor stationed in Naples, Italy.

"See if they can give you their side of what it took for them. Guidance is always good."

Evaluations are "a big factor," he said, and should reflect more than a sailor doing his job. Sailors who take on extra jobs, or what the Navy calls "collateral duties," should have something to show for it, he said.

"Grab a collateral duty and do something with it, have something to show for it," said Delgado, who will vie for a chief's slot in a couple of years.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@estripes.osd.mil

Rising in the ranks

The chance for sailors to make the rank of chief petty officer, or E-7, has been steadily declining in recent years. Increased retention and decreased attrition are some of the reasons becoming a chief is more competitive than before. At the same time, promotion rates for soldiers to E-7 are on the rise. Here is a look at promotion rates to E-7 for all services since 2001.

Year	Service	Chance
Fiscal 2001	Navy	25.53 %
Fiscal 2001	Air Force	38.98 %
*CY 2001	Army	21.4 %
Fiscal 2002	Navy	28.10 %
Fiscal 2002	Air Force	33.23 %
CY 2002	Army	27.1 %
Fiscal 2003	Navy	26.68 %
Fiscal 2003	Air Force	25.56 %
CY 2003	Army	30.0 %
Fiscal 2004	Navy	24.18 %
Fiscal 2004	Air Force	25.95 %
CY 2004	Army	**
Fiscal 2005	Navy	21.94 %
Fiscal 2005	Air Force	26.05 %
CY 2005	Army	32.7 %
Fiscal 2006	Navy	26.97 %
Fiscal 2006	Air Force	19.86 %
CY 2006	Army	26.4 %
Fiscal 2007	Navy	24.61 %
Fiscal 2007	Air Force	24.89 %
CY 2007	Army	27.7 %
Fiscal 2008	Navy	21.49 %
Fiscal 2008	Air Force	22.31 %
CY 2008	Army	27.9 %
Fiscal 2009	Navy	20.19 %
Fiscal 2009	Air Force	24.64 %
CY 2009	Army	29.0 %

*The Army tracks promotions by calendar year (CY) instead of fiscal year.

** An E-7 selection board was not conducted in 2004 due to re-sequencing of board convene dates for active-duty senior noncommissioned officer boards.

Source: Army, Air Force and Navy

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Soldier in Iraq sworn in as Mich. lawyer

By DAVID EGGERT
The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Army Reserve Maj. Miles Gengler didn't hesitate as he repeated the oath during his swearing-in as an attorney. His words just had to travel more than 6,000 miles from Baghdad's Green Zone to Michigan to be heard.

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly administered the oath to Gengler, 35, by video during a long-distance ceremony Thursday at the state National Guard headquarters in Lansing. "I'm just in awe," said Gengler, of Grand Blanc. "I'm just a soldier like 120,000 or so others here in Iraq."

The chief justice said it was an emotional swearing-in, partly because of the time delay between when she stated the 240-word oath and when Gengler could repeat it. "It served to remind me how far away he is," Kelly said.

Kelly and National Guard officials said they were unaware of such a video swearing-in happening in the United States before.

Gengler's high school sweetheart-turned-wife, Heather, his daughters Carson, 12, and Hayden, 8, and parents watched him on a TV screen. He could see them, too, and they talked for a bit after the ceremony. "For a long time he didn't sleep much at all," Heather Gengler said of the hectic time before her husband left for Iraq, when

he needed Red Bull energy drinks to make it through the day.

Miles Gengler would wake up at 4 a.m. and drive more than an hour to work at uniform supplier Cintas Corp. in Midland while listening to legal CDs. Later, he'd squeeze in time with his wife and three kids, and pack for Iraq. Then there was settling matters before he left the country — and studying for Michigan's two-day bar exam.

He graduated with honors from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Auburn Hills in September after finishing law school in four years by taking weekend classes. He almost missed the February bar exam because of his deployment but was able to delay his departure to take the test.



AL GOLDIS/AP

Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly, left, swears in U.S. Army Reserve Maj. Miles Gengler via satellite Thursday, in Lansing, Mich.

Putting some rounds downrange



MATTHEW R. WHITE/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

In the western Pacific, a midshipman from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force fires an M-240 machine gun from the bridge wing of the guided missile cruiser USS Shiloh on Wednesday as part of a midshipmen exchange program. The Shiloh operates out of Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

Damage control training



Petty Officer 3rd Class Amy Jarvis cuts a wedge while patching a pipe Thursday during repair locker training on the fantail of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan. Pipe patching is an essential part of damage-control training for sailors. The Reagan is on a deployment in the Indian Ocean.

BRIANA C. BROTZMAN
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

VA staying mum on compensation issue

By BILL POOVEY
The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — An attorney for veterans potentially exposed to HIV and other infections by colonoscopies at three Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals said his clients are waiting to hear if they will be compensated for mistakes that led to congressional hearings and new VA spending on patient safety.

A spokeswoman for the VA declined to comment about prospects for compensation. Katie Roberts said the more than 10,000 veterans who have been getting follow-up blood checks since February have the option of filing a complaint in a claim just like other VA patients.

But Nashville lawyer Mike Sheppard describes that claims process as cumbersome, particularly for veterans who have tested positive for HIV and hepatitis.

"Some of these veterans are scared," said Sheppard, who has about 50 of the VA's former endoscopic patients as clients. He said complaints about VA medical care must be filed under the federal torts claim law.

Sheppard said his clients are telling him that VA officials have sent them letters and in some cases have contacted them by telephone "stating they are sending them some documents and they will be considering some compensation."

Roberts said the VA has made no offer of any special compensation.

She declined to comment about any potential benefit for the affected veterans beyond continuing to provide them medical care. Roberts said Thursday that she is trying to provide VA records on medical complaints.

An update on the VA's Web site shows that a seventh veteran has tested positive for HIV among the former patients exposed to mistakes with rigging or cleaning endoscopic equipment at VA hospitals in Murfreesboro, Tenn.;

Miami and Augusta, Ga.

Another 12 veterans among those who have heeded VA warnings to get follow-up blood checks have tested positive for hepatitis B and 36 others have tested positive for hepatitis C.

The VA and independent doctors say those rates of infection are far below what would normally be found among similar populations.

A top VA doctor has said there is no way to trace the infections to the VA — or the mistakes he described as human error — but some medical experts disagree.

A report by the VA inspector general, presented to congressional oversight panels, suggests the VA has more widespread problems.

Surprise inspections in May found that only 43 percent of VA medical centers had standard operating procedures in place for endoscopic equipment used in colonoscopies and other procedures and could show they properly trained their staffs for using the devices.

Roberts has said the VA is releasing \$26 million from reserve funds to buy new equipment to improve the cleaning of endoscopes and other reusable medical devices.

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In Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Iraq and now Algeria

Somali opposition leader Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys holds a rally in Mogadishu, Somalia, in April. Aweys has been linked to al-Qaida.



Two Yemeni men accused of attacking foreigners watch the trial of an al-Qaida terrorist cell in San'a, Yemen. The Arab world's poorest nation is fertile territory for al-Qaida cells.

"They're not al-Qaida; they're just a mafia."

Majid Benhamiche
Algerian village militia

"They told me, 'You know who we are.' I answered: 'Yes, you are the mujahedeen.' ... But they didn't even behead me. What kind of al-Qaida is this? ... They're afraid of no one."

Mohammed
Algerian businessman

Their own brand of terror

By ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU
The Associated Press

DRAA BEN KHEDDA, Algeria — Deep in the Sahara Desert, along the remote southern borders of Algeria, lies an immense no man's land where militants roam.

It is here that terrorists linked with al-Qaida traffic everything from weapons and drugs to illegal migrants. They have planted at least a half-dozen cells in Europe, according to French, Italian and Belgian intelligence.

The al-Qaida of the Islamic Maghreb, or AQIM, is perhaps the best example of how al-Qaida is morphing and broadening its reach through loose relationships with local offshoots. The shadowy network of Algerian cells recruits Islamist radicals throughout North and West Africa, trains them and sends them to fight in the region or in Iraq, according to Western and North African intelligence officials who asked to remain anonymous because of the nature of their job. In turn, AQIM gets al-Qaida's brand name and some corporate know-how.

"The relationship with the al-Qaida mother company works like in a multinational," says Jean-Louis Bruguiere, France's former top counterterrorism judge. "There's a strong ideological link, but the local subsidiary operates on its own."

AQIM shows the battle against radical Islam in Algeria has become crucial — and not only for North Africa. Intelligence officials in Europe are convinced AQIM wants to expand in their region.

A senior counterterrorism official in France, who was not authorized to talk on the record, said at least six AQIM-related cells, dormant or getting ready for action, have been dismantled across Europe in recent years.

Last month, the Spanish judiciary an-

nounced it had caught 12 Algerians from a suspected cell. And in early June, Italian authorities issued arrest warrants for two Tunisians, two Moroccans and an Algerian suspected of plotting attacks on a church and a subway line.

In an apparent reference to al-Qaida's attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, AQIM carried out its first suicide bombings on April 11, 2007. On Dec. 11 of that year, it killed 37 people in an attack that devastated the U.N.'s Algerian headquarters.

The group pays its dues back to "headquarters" by trying to expand a new front for jihad in North Africa that could also serve as a forward base to hit Europe. Terrorists from Algeria or of Algerian descent have already been implicated in several devastating attacks, including the 2004 Madrid train bombings.

But the bulk of the militants' activities remain in densely populated northern Algeria, where they traffic goods, plunder drivers at fake roadblocks, kidnap and extort money from small businessmen in exchange for safety.

"They're not al-Qaida; they're just a mafia," said Majid Benhamiche, who regularly dons his military uniform to join the army in raids against terrorist camps across the Kabylie mountains.

Algerian authorities describe the militants as on the run. Authorities have indeed dismantled several large cells this year. Important local emirs, have turned themselves in, and several former high-profile leaders — known as "repentants" in Algeria — are calling on militants to stop fighting. Algerian authorities believe 500 to 800 active fighters remain.

Still, violence persists. Data obtained by the AP from Western diplomats in Algeria shows 85 significant bombings in 2008. Some 639 people died that year due to terrorism-related violence: 409 suspected militants, 158 security force members and 72 civilians.

This year, there were 64 bombings from January to April alone, with deaths of 19 civilians and 61 security force members. The data also show 167 suspected militants killed amid police sweeps, army raids and airstrikes.

Construction entrepreneur Mohammed remembers his terror in February, when he and his son returned late from a construction site, unarmed. They saw five gunmen blocking the road and waiting for them, said Mohammed, who asked to be identified only by his first name for fear of retaliation were taken by five gunmen.

"They told me, 'You know who we are,'" the businessman recalls, still visibly shaken. "I answered, 'Yes, you are the mujahedeen.'"

They held his son while Mohammed retrieved money to secure the child's safety. Mohammed thought the terrorists would kill him when he returned to give them the money — \$28,000.

"But they didn't even behead me. What kind of al-Qaida is this?"

Mohammed said the kidnapers left him with a warning for police: They planned to attack its headquarters in the nearby town of Les Oucifs. Some 30 militants did indeed attack on March 26, spraying the station with bullets for a half-hour and wounding four officers.

"They're afraid of no one," he said.

Algeria has ramped up its security. With 100,000 military police, 80,000 government-funded militia members and 150,000 police, the Defense and Interior ministries spent \$9.1 billion, according to the 2008 budget.

Security is indeed killing or arresting militants in droves, said a Western intelligence official. "But the problem is, the groups can recruit just as fast within the desperate and angry youth."

"... the problem is, the groups can recruit just as fast within the desperate and angry youth."

Western
intelligence official

"There's a strong ideological link, but the local subsidiary operates on its own."

Jean-Louis
Bruguiere

France's ex-head of
counterterrorism judges

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IN THE WORLD

Jones: U.S. prepared for any N. Korean launch



Ahn Young-Joon/AP

South Korean activists burn a defaced North Korean flag and mock missiles during a rally in Seoul on Friday.

S. Korea: North's short-range launches were part of exercise

By Kwang-Tae Kim
The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea shrugged off North Korea's firing of short-range missiles, saying Friday they were part of routine military exercises and warning more launches are likely in coming days.

Whether the communist country will fire a long-range missile toward Hawaii remained unclear, though U.S. defense officials said such a launch did not appear imminent.

The North fired four short-range missiles off its east coast Thursday, just ahead of the U.S. Independence Day holiday. The U.S. and Japan called the North's move "provocative."

Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae said South Korea did not attach much significance to the missile launches, calling them part of a routine military exercise.

The short-range missiles are not seen as a threat by South Korea or the U.S., which have far more sophisticated weapons. South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified military official, reported that all four missiles flew about 60 miles.

The launches, however, have highlighted concerns over North Korea's broader missile intentions, especially after the nation warned ships to stay away from its eastern coast until July 10.

Speculation has centered on whether the North may try to fire a long-range missile toward Hawaii during the period. In April, North Korea threatened to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Such a move would be seen as another challenge to the United States, which has been rallying international support for enforcement of U.N. sanctions imposed against Pyongyang following its May 25 nuclear test.

Several U.S. Defense Department officials said there was nothing to indicate that North Korea is ready to launch a long-range ballistic missile and there appears to be no immediate threat to the United States.

McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — If North Korea fires a missile at Hawaii on or around the July Fourth holiday, as Japanese reports have warned, the U.S. plans a measured response in coordination with Russia, China, Japan and South Korea.

White House national security adviser James L. Jones said of North Korea and its erratic communist dictator Kim Jong Il: "Our reaction will be dependent on what it is they do over the next few days, few weeks, whatever it is." Jones said the U.S. has "looked at a range of options that we have at our disposal" and is maintaining "an open and constant dialogue" with Russia, China, Japan and South Korea, all of whom share regional interests.

Recent Japanese reports said that North Korea

plans a missile attack on Hawaii, about 4,500 miles distant, around July Fourth. As of Thursday, however, U.S. experts on North Korea said there's no evidence of an impending long-range launch.

"It usually takes several days to fuel and prepare it," said Bruce Klingner, a senior research fellow specializing in Northeast Asia for the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research organization. Klingner said that North Korea either might be looking at a later date, or might instead launch short-range Scuds or intermediate-range ballistic missiles. Either would violate a United Nations resolution, but neither could reach Hawaii.

Experts said they don't think North Korea has the capability to reach Hawaii, but Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered special radar and missile-defense technology to Hawaii days ago just in case.



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NAVY
RESERVE

U.K. Embassy staffers to face trial

Britain pressing EU members to pull ambassadors from Iran

By LEE KEATH

The Associated Press

A top Iranian cleric said Friday that some of the detained Iranian staffers of the British Embassy in Tehran will be put on trial, and he accused Britain of a role in instigating widespread protests that erupted over the country's disputed presidential election.

The announcement by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati alarmed European nations and fueled calls for tougher action against Tehran.

Britain is pressing for members of the European Union to pull their ambassadors out of Tehran to protest the arrest of its embassy staffers last week — a step that the EU so far has hesitated to take.

After Jannati's comments, French President Nicolah Sarkozy on Friday expressed backing for Britain, saying "our solidarity with our English friends is total." He said France backs sanctions "so that Iranian leaders will really understand that the path that they have chosen will be a dead end."

Jannati, a powerful hard-liner who is close to Iran's supreme leader, told worshippers during a Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University that the detained staffers "made confessions."

He did not say how many staffers will be tried or on what



VAHID SALEMI/AP

Iranian worshippers chant anti-US and anti-Israel slogans during a Friday prayer ceremony at Tehran University.

charges. Earlier Iranian officials said all but one of the nine embassy personnel originally

arrested had been released, but European Union officials said they believed more than one was

still being held.

Iranian authorities have barred journalists for interna-

tional news organizations from reporting on the streets. This report is based on the accounts of witnesses reached in Iran and official statements carried on Iranian media.

In London, a Foreign Office spokeswoman said of Jannati's comments that British officials are "very concerned about these reports and are investigating."

In Sweden, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said "it's not acceptable to file charges against the ones released or the ones still in custody," though he added that the report had not yet been confirmed. On Thursday, EU countries demanded the release of the staffers, but held off on any sanctions for the time being.

Jannati does not hold a position in the government or judiciary, but is the head of the Guardian Council, a powerful body in Iran's ruling clerical hierarchy that stands above the elected government.

Jannati also pointed out that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, once said that "anyone disrupts unity has not only committed a sin but also has committed treason against the Islamic Republic and the system."

Jannati demanded that those involved in the protests "repent and ask God to forgive them."

Myanmar rejects U.N. attempt to see Suu Kyi

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Friday that Myanmar's junta chief rejected his initial request to meet jailed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a rocky start to what he has called "a very tough mission" to win her freedom.

Ban emerged from a two-hour meeting with Myanmar's reclusive Senior Gen. Than Shwe, saying he still hoped to meet the 64-year-old Nobel Peace laureate before he leaves the country on Saturday. If Ban is allowed to meet with Suu Kyi, he will be the first U.N. secretary-general to do so since her first period of detention started in 1989.

Suu Kyi has been in detention for nearly 14 of the past 20 years, mostly under house arrest.

In May, she was charged with

violating the terms of her house arrest when an uninvited American man swam secretly to her lakeside home in May and stayed for two days. She has pleaded not guilty and faces five years in prison if convicted.

Ban said he also urged Than Shwe to "accelerate the process of democratization" and reiterated calls for the junta to free its estimated 2,100 political prisoners ahead of the elections.

"I was assured that the Myanmar authorities will make sure that this election will be held in a fair and free and transparent manner," he said, without elaborating.

Ban was also scheduled to meet ethnic minority groups and leaders of political parties, including senior members of Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, who were driven to Naypyitaw.

From The Associated Press

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Third World air travel can be risky business

By MICHELLE FAUL
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — First there was smoke, then flames burst out of the aircraft engine. But I was having difficulty communicating with the Mozambican flight attendant who was fussing with warm sodas and soggy sandwiches and did not speak English.

I got up, pulled on her arm and pointed at the fire.

It's been 30 years — and many more brushes with disaster in the air over Africa and other third world spots where poverty, war, extreme weather and corruption continue to plague airline safety.

It's a problem that grabbed the world's attention when a Yemenia airlines jetliner crashed into the Indian Ocean this week off the island nation of Comoros. Only one survivor, a 12-year-old girl, has been found; 152 others are feared dead.

Yemenia rejected criticism from French officials that the plane had a history of faulty equipment.

The tragedy nonetheless brought to light long-standing complaints about flights that lacked seat belts and were so overcrowded that some passengers stood in the aisles.

It was on just such an overcrowded Libyan Arab Airlines flight from Tripoli to Benghazi in 1982 that a fellow passenger had another use for the aisle: He set down a paraffin-fueled camp stove and lit it to make some tea. There was pandemonium and a fistfight before the stove was switched off.

Many in Africa consider planes just another form of transport to cram with passengers and baggage, much like buses and ferries.

Still, flying probably is the safest way to get around the continent, and often the only way. Congo, which has experienced more fatal crashes than any other African country since 1945, is a vast country of jungles and huge rivers with little more than 300 miles of paved road.

In other countries, roads are so potholed from lack of maintenance that it can take days to cover a few hundred miles.

Airline deregulation, which came belatedly to Africa in the 1990s, brought new dangers.

A plethora of airlines sprung up, frequently flying old leased Soviet-built aircraft with crews who spoke little English, the international language of aviation.

Still, there has been significant improvement since the African Civil Aviation Authority was set up two years ago, said Capt. Harry Eggerschwiler, its chief of operations.

"This is especially true of airlines flying on international routes. They have totally international standards of maintenance and safety," he said.

"Internally there are still some problems, but we are progressing and pushing those operators very hard."

Most of the notorious fly-by-night outfits have shut down, Eggerschwiler said. He noted that of the 17 airlines from Angola on the European Union's list of banned carriers, only one was actually in operation.

In Nigeria, the pilot for one of those outfits found a novel way to handle an oversold flight from Lagos to northern Kano city that I was on in May 1992.

As I pressed against the glass door of the departure lounge with other irate passengers — our sheer weight threatening to crash through it — the pilot instructed us to run around the plane once and then board.

He then stood at the foot of the aircraft stairs with guards to prevent the overload from getting onto the plane.

I was as badly behaved as anyone, swinging my hefty hand luggage to make a path to the stairs.

Riots had killed hundreds up north, and I had to get on that plane.

Africa's many wars have posed other dangers for flying.

During Zimbabwe's 1972-1979 guerrilla war for majority rule, I flew on several small chartered planes that only on landing were



SAYYID AZIM/AP

The president of Comoros, Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi, right, meets Red Cross personnel Thursday at Galawa Beach, Comoros, where a rescue center is based. An airliner with 153 people on board belonging to Yemen's state airline Yemenia crashed into choppy seas as it came in to land on Comoros last week.

found to be punctured with bullet holes.

That said, today Air Zimbabwe is among a handful of African airlines that have gone fatality-free for at least the past 25 years, despite the political and economic crisis that has left the country's infrastructure crumbling.

Others are Air Seychelles, Air Mauritius, Air Tanzania and Tunis Air.

While in Haiti covering a presidential inauguration in February 1996, I needed to fly to the Dominican Republic to cover a plane crash that had killed all on board, mostly European tourists.

I booked a charter with a French company but when I saw the plane — a 1950s-era aircraft with peeling paint — I told the photographer that no one would blame us if we refused to fly.

The French pilot assured us his craft was better maintained than many with shiny coats of paint at the airfield in Port-au-Prince. And, he asked, why would he, a young man with a wife and two children, risk his life flying an unsafe plane?

I was persuaded, though we had some panicky moments when the plane barely scraped over the highest mountain in the Caribbean, Pico Duarte.

Three days later, the same plane and its French pilot crashed on takeoff from Port-au-Prince. Everyone died. Officials said later it was overloaded.

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IN THE STATES

Palin to resign by end of July

By RACHEL D'ORO
The Associated Press

WASILLA, Alaska — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin made a surprise announcement Friday that she is resigning from office at the end of the month without explaining why she plans to step down, raising speculation that she would focus on a run for the White House in the 2012 race.

The former Republican vice presidential candidate hastily called a news conference Friday morning at her home in suburban Wasilla, giving such short notice that only a few reporters actually made it to the announcement. State troopers blocked late-arriving media outside her home, and her spokesman, Dave Murrow, finally emerged to confirm that Palin will step down July 26. He refused to give details about the governor's future plans.

"Once I decided not to run

for re-election, I also felt that to embrace the conventional Lame Duck status in this particular climate would just be another dose of politics as usual, something I campaigned against and will always oppose," Palin said in a statement released by her office.

Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell will be inaugurated at the governor's picnic in Fairbanks at the end of the month, Murrow said.

Palin was first elected in 2006 on a populist platform. But her popularity has waned as she waged in partisan politics following her return from the presidential campaign. Her term would have ended in 2010.

Palin said she planned to make a "positive change outside government," without elaborating. She also expressed frustration with her current role as governor.

"I cannot stand here as your governor and allow the millions



Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks during a vice presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis in October. On Friday, Palin announced that she will step down from her position on July 26.

AP

of dollars and all that time go to waste just so I can hold the title of governor," Palin said.

Later, on Twitter, she promised supporters more details: "We'll soon attach info on decision to not seek re-election ... this is in Alaska's best interest, my family's happy ... it is good. Stay tuned."

Palin's decision even took Parnell by surprise. He said he was told on Wednesday evening, and was not aware that any presidential ambitions were behind the move.

Palin emerged from relative obscurity nearly a year ago when she was tapped as then Republi-

can presidential candidate John McCain's running mate.

She was a controversial figure from the start, with comedian Tina Fey imitating her elaborate hairstyle and folksy "You betcha!" on "Saturday Night Live."

Palin's family and the ridicule they endure being in the public eye was part of her decision, she said. She complained that her 14-month-old son, Trig, who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, had been "mocked and ridiculed by some mean-spirited adults recently." She didn't elaborate.

Palin campaigned on ethics reform in the 2006 election, defeating incumbent Gov. Frank

Murkowski in the Republican primary and a former two-term Democratic governor, Tony Knowles, in the general election.

She enjoyed an extended honeymoon with lawmakers and voters alike. Her popularity was in the 80 percentile range, even though that fell after the bruising, partisan presidential campaign.

Palin's delivery of two weeks' notice rattles a Republican Party plagued with setbacks in recent weeks, including extramarital affairs disclosed by two other 2012 presidential prospects, Nevada Sen. John Ensign and South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford.



JAE C. HONG/AP

Left: Workers install a temporary fence outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Thursday. A memorial for Michael Jackson is scheduled there on Tuesday. Tens of thousands are expected to attend. Right: Michael Jackson rehearses at the Staples Center on June 23.



KEVIN MAZUR, AEG, GETTY IMAGES/AP

Interrogation report to be delayed again

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration said Thursday that it needs two more months to review an internal CIA report on the agency's secret detention and interrogation program before making it public, drawing criticism from civil libertarians who say it's past time for Americans to know how its government treated terrorism suspects.

The Justice Department had originally said it intended to release the report in June as part of a lawsuit, but department officials now say they need until the end of August.

The report by the CIA's inspector general questioned the effectiveness of harsh interrogation methods employed by CIA interrogators during the Bush administration, such as waterboarding, which simulates drowning.

The government published a version of the report in 2008, but its contents were almost entirely blacked out. The ACLU filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit for release of documents from the interrogation program.

On June 3, a federal judge gave the administration until Aug. 31 to release 319 documents related to the program. The report had been expected to be made public two weeks ago but was held back over debates about how much of it should be censored.

Powerful sedative allegedly found in Jackson's home

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The powerful sedative Diprivan was found in Michael Jackson's home, a law enforcement official said Friday.

Diprivan is an anesthetic widely used in operating rooms to induce unconsciousness. Also known as Propofol, it's administered intravenously and is very unusual to have in a private home.

The law enforcement official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about the matter.

Authorities are investigating allegations that the 50-year-old Jackson had been consuming painkillers, sedatives and antidepressants. Any criminal charges would depend on whether Jackson had been overly prescribed medications, given drugs inappropriate for his needs, or if doctors knowingly prescribed Jackson medications under an assumed name.

It's still not known what caused Jackson's

death on June 25. The pop star went into cardiac arrest in his bedroom and his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, performed CPR while an ambulance was called, according to Murray's lawyers. Murray has spoken to police and authorities say he is not a suspect.

An autopsy was conducted but results are not expected for several weeks. The Jackson family had a second autopsy performed, and those results also are pending.

The investigation of Michael Jackson's death is widening as questions intensify about the drugs he took, the doctors who provided them and the actions of police.

Los Angeles police say proper procedures were followed based on the circumstances of officers encountered when they were called to the home on June 25. There was no sign of foul play. But some say police should have assumed it was possible a crime had occurred and taken precautions to ensure the scene was not disrupted so evidence wasn't lost or tainted.

"If I was the chief detective on the case, I would have said, 'We don't know what's going on. We should seal the scene,'" said defense attorney Harland Braun, who has represented celebrities including Robert Blake, Roseanne and Gary Busey. "You always have to think of the worst-case scenario and you have to think fast. I would have sealed the scene just because it was Michael Jackson."

Whether the Jackson probe turns into a criminal investigation hinges on what evidence emerges involving the drugs. Charges could be brought if authorities determine Jackson had been overly prescribed medications, if he had been given drugs inappropriate for his medical needs, or if doctors knowingly prescribed Jackson medications under an assumed name.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles officials were scrambling to try to figure out how to accommodate a Tuesday public memorial service at the Staples Center, which holds 20,000 people.

What does it take to buy FIVE STARS?

FTC may regulate gifts consumer bloggers can accept for good reviews

By DEBORAH YAO
The Associated Press

Savvy consumers often go online for independent consumer reviews of products and services, scouring through comments from everyday Joes and Janes to help them find a gem or shun a lemon.

What some fail to realize, though, is that such reviews can be tainted: Many bloggers have accepted perks such as free laptops, trips to Europe, \$500 gift cards or even thousands of dollars for a 200-word post. Bloggers vary in how they disclose such freebies.

The practice has grown to the degree that the Federal Trade Commission is paying attention. New guidelines, expected to be approved late this summer with possible modifications, would clarify that the agency can go after bloggers — as well as the companies that compensate them — for any false claims or failure to disclose conflicts of interest.

It would be the first time the FTC tries to patrol systematically what bloggers say and do online. The common practice of posting a graphical ad or a link to an online retailer — and getting commissions for any sales from it — would be enough to trigger oversight.

"If you walk into a department store, you know the (sales) clerk is a clerk," said Rich Cleland, assistant director in the FTC's division of advertising practices. "Online, if you think that somebody is providing you with independent advice and ... they have an economic motive for what they're saying, that's information a consumer should know."

The guidelines also would bring uniformity to a community that has shunned that.

As blogging rises in importance and sophistication, it has taken on characteristics of community journalism — but without consensus on the types of ethical practices typically found in traditional media.

Journalists who work for newspapers and broadcasters are held accountable by their employers, and they generally cannot receive payments from marketers and must return test products after finishing the review.

The blogosphere is quite different.

"Rules are set by the individuals who create the blog," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project. "Some people will accept payments and free gifts, and some people won't. There's no established norm yet."

Bloggers complain that with FTC oversight, they'd be too worried about innocent posts getting them in trouble, and they say they might simply quit or post less frequently.

Between ads on her five blogs and payments from advertisers who want her to review products, Rebecca Empey makes as much as \$800 a month, paying the grocery bill for a family of six. She also has received a bird feeder, toys, books and other free goods.

Now the 41-year-old mother of four in New Hartford, N.Y., worries that even a casual mention of an all-natural cold remedy she bought herself would trigger an FTC probe.

"This helped us. This made us feel great. Will I be sued because I didn't hire a scientist to do research?" Empey said.

Empey said she discloses compensation arrangements on a page on her blogs or through a "support my sponsor" logo. She said most of her readers understand that she sometimes gets compensated.

"Some people will accept payments and free gifts, and some people won't. There's no established norm yet."

Lee Rainie
Pew Internet and
American Life Project

"It's been an issue, regardless of the FTC," she said. "It's about trust."

The proposed FTC guidelines aim to clarify the law and for the first time specifically include bloggers, defined loosely as anyone writing a personal journal online.

If the guidelines are approved, bloggers would have to back up claims and disclose if they're being compensated — the FTC doesn't currently plan to specify how. The FTC could order violators to stop and pay restitution to customers, and it could ask the Justice Department to sue for civil penalties.

Any type of blog could be scrutinized, not just ones that specialize in reviews.

So parents keeping blogs to update family members on their child's first steps technically would fall under the FTC guidelines, though they likely would have little to worry about unless they accept payments or free products and write about them.

But they would need to think twice if, for instance, they praise parenting books they've just read and include links to buy them at a retailer such as Amazon.com Inc. — a type of affiliate marketing.

Cleland said the FTC would focus on repeated offenses that continue after a warning.

Still, the agency has a big job ahead as new communications channels continually emerge. Advertisers now are paying some Twitter users to post short items through the increasingly popular messaging service. The FTC says the guidelines would cover such arrangements.

Even before the commissioners vote on the final guidelines this summer, some companies have begun compiling information on what bloggers disclose gifts to readers.

Still, over the holidays, IZEA ran a campaign in which bloggers who don't normally shop at Sears Holdings Corp.'s Kmart stores were given \$500 gift cards and encouraged to write about their experiences in the stores. To reduce the chance of a bad review, the retailer said it avoided bloggers who previously made negative remarks about the company.

And blogger on TravelingMom was whisked away on a free Disney cruise in January.

"I've been on cruises before, but never like this one. The Disney Wonder (cruise ship) is ... well ... wondrous," she gushed on her blog.

She did disclose the free trip.

Google uses tricycle to film for Street View

By RON TODT
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Coming soon to a campus near you — the Google tricycle.

A pedicab-like vehicle mounted with an 8-foot-high camera has been rolling around the pedestrian walkways of the University of Pennsylvania to collect panoramic images of the campus for Google Maps' Street View feature, which gives users detailed, street-level views of locations over the Internet.

The human-powered version allows coverage of pedestrian-only areas on campuses, in public parks, at theme parks and nature trails.

Danny Sullivan, of the industry news site Search Engine Land, called the effort a good public relations move.

"This is a nice way for them to say 'Hey, look, Street View: It's really warm and fuzzy,'" he said.

Officials say the photos of Penn's tree-lined Locust Walk mall and other places will allow prospective students and their parents to get a good feel for the campus and give incoming students a way to map out the routes to classes.

The 250-pound vehicle, which resembles the pedicabs that carry tourists around Philadelphia and other cities, has the cyclist pumping the pedals up front, with the camera mounted on a tower in the back. On the rear is a red generator along with a large white chest that holds the computer recording the digital images.

"I think it's fantastic," said Caitlin Hanrahan, 28, a nursing student. "This campus is really confusing ... and when you try and explain to people how to get to the building, people get lost all the time."

One of the tricycle operators, Martin D.F. Angelo, 27, said the camera usually is embraced by the young.

"The biggest disappointment that most people seem to voice is that we're actually going to blur out their faces," he said, "so they're not going to be Internet-famous or something like that."



The University of Pennsylvania on June 19.



Yuli Ziv, president and co-founder of My It Things, a fashion blog, sits in her office June 12. Ziv is helping to write self-regulation guidelines for bloggers who accept gifts.

Some of the freebies bloggers receive:



Free trips



Appliances



New food items

Madoff's penthouse seized; wife leaves

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Federal marshals seized disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's \$7 million Manhattan penthouse on Thursday and forced his wife to move out and leave her possessions behind, including a fur coat she had asked to take with her, an official told The Associated Press.

Proceeds from a sale of the property and its contents could be used to help reimburse those who lost billions of dollars investing with Madoff before he confessed to running a Ponzi scheme.



Madoff

make anyone living there move out. Guccione said Madoff's wife Ruth had been advised in advance of the marshals' plans and was

U.S. Marshal Joseph Guccione said the marshals arrived at the property at noon with a court order permitting them to take custody of the apartment and to

leaving the residence and surrendering all personal property.

"She will be leaving," he said at midday. "Restitution for the victims is the government's top priority."

Typically, the U.S. Marshals Service changes all locks and secures a property when it seizes a property.

By 1 p.m., 67-year-old Ruth Madoff had left. It was not immediately clear where she went to live.

Ruth Madoff first argued with marshals who came to the apartment and asked to stay, then asked if she could take a fur coat with

her, a federal official informed of Ruth Madoff's departure told The AP.

The official wasn't authorized to discuss details of her encounter with marshals and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ruth Madoff walked out of the apartment carrying just a straw bag after she was told she couldn't take her coat, the official said.

"This cheap effort to smear Ruth Madoff is meritless — with a little over two days to pack up her entire life of 68 years and find a new place to live, Ruth still managed to move out right on time, in an orderly fashion and in

total compliance with her court approved agreement," said her lawyer, Peter Chavkin. The 71-year-old Madoff was sentenced Monday to 150 years in prison. He pleaded guilty in March to charges that his investment advisory business was a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out thousands of investors and ruined charities.

Authorities said Madoff had carried out the fraud for at least two decades before confessing to his sons in December that his investment business was a fraud and that he had lost as much as \$50 billion.

Convictions in MySpace suicide case thrown out

By LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Missouri mother said she never should have been prosecuted for her role in a MySpace hoax directed at a 13-year-old girl who ended up committing suicide.

A federal judge said Thursday that he has tentatively thrown out Lori Drew's convictions, acquitting her of misdemeanor counts of accessing computers without authorization. U.S. District Judge George Wu stressed the ruling was tentative until

he issues it in writing.

Drew showed no reaction to the decision in the courtroom. In a statement read on NBC's "Today" show Friday, Drew said she agreed with it and felt she never should have been prosecuted.

"In my view, it was proper that this case was dismissed, primarily because I simply did not do what the U.S. attorney in Los Angeles accused me of doing," Drew said.

Drew was convicted in November, but the judge said that if she is to be found guilty of illegally accessing computers,

anyone who has ever violated the social networking site's terms of service would be guilty of a misdemeanor. That would be unconstitutional, he said.

"You could prosecute pretty much anyone who violated terms of service," he said.

Prosecutors had sought the maximum three-year prison sentence and a \$300,000 fine, but it had been uncertain going into Thursday's hearing whether Drew would be sentenced.

Wu had given a lengthy review to a de-

fense request for dismissal, delaying sentencing from May to go over testimony from two prosecution witnesses.

Wu said he allowed the case to proceed to trial when Drew was charged with a felony, but she was convicted only of the misdemeanor and that presented constitutional problems.

Defense attorney Dean Steward said outside court that Los Angeles federal prosecutors should not have brought the charges in a case that originated in Missouri and was rejected by prosecutors there.

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The sub zero heroes are back. Scrat is still trying to nab the ever elusive nut, while maybe finding true love. Manny and Ellie await the birth of their mini-mammoth. Diego the saber toothed tiger wonders if he's growing too soft and Sid the sloth gets into trouble when he creates his own makeshift family by hijacking some dinosaur eggs. On a mission to rescue the hapless Sid, the gang ventures into a mysterious underground world, where they have some close encounters with dinosaurs, battle flora and fauna, run amuck and meet a relentless, one eyed, dino-hunting weasel name Buck.

**ICE AGE
DAWN OF DINOSAURS**

Studio: Fox Pictures
Rating: NR

Please check your local theater or aafes.com for show dates.

A Fourth celebration nearly as old as the nation

Town's festivities date to 1785

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

BRISTOL, R.I. — In July 1785, the citizens of this waterfront town assembled to heap praise on their newly minted nation and to thank God for helping them survive a fierce assault by the British during the Revolutionary War.

Prayer, speeches and other such "patriotic exercises" have marked the Fourth of July in Bristol every year since 1785 — allowing the town to lay claim to the nation's oldest Independence Day celebration.

The patriotic exercises and annual parade that follows are institutions in Bristol, where pride in country is manifest in the red-white-and-blue center stripe that runs through the main artery of the town and in the American flags and banners that hang outside restored colonial homes.

The parade has continued uninterrupted with the exception of a few years — such as 1881, when President James Garfield was shot. Some events — like chasing

a greased pig around the Common — have been abandoned, but modern-day fixtures include a concert series, orange crate derby, nighttime ball, a Miss (and Little Miss) Fourth of July pageant — even a contest recognizing the person who has traveled the farthest.

"Sometimes we think we have red, white and blue running through our bloodstream because of our commitment to the celebration," said parade chairwoman Judy Squires, a lifelong Bristol resident.

The festivities draw about 100,000 people, including some from far outside Rhode Island, Squires said.

William Holmes, 54, said he's surprised by other communities that celebrate Independence Day in a nonchalant way.

"To Bristolians, it has the same impact as Christmas," said Holmes, an administrator at the Ethan Allen furniture company. "Everyone is celebrating outside, backyard to backyard."



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Kris Larson, left, and Peter Lopes attach an American flag to a soccer-themed Independence Day parade float in Bristol, R.I., on June 30. Bristol residents have marked July Fourth every year since 1785, allowing the town to lay claim to the nation's oldest Independence Day celebration.



TV Listing

Central Europe	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	-
12:30 AM	Army Newswatch	This Week in the Pentagon	Grill Sergeants, The	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Downrange	Grill Sergeants, The
01:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:30 AM	Downrange	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	This Week in the Pentagon
02:00 AM	-	Recon	Recon Revisited	FNG	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week
02:30 AM	-	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	Grill Sergeants, The	FNG
03:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
03:30 AM	FNG	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	Battleground
03:45 AM	-	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	-
04:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Grill Sergeants, The	Sun City Soldier	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon Revisited
04:30 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
05:00 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
05:30 AM	EXchange On Air	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Today's Air Force
06:00 AM	All Hands TV	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	FNG
06:30 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Army Newswatch
07:00 AM	Recon Revisited	FNG	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report
07:15 AM	-	-	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report
07:30 AM	American Veteran, The	Recon	EXchange On Air	Recon	Balad and Beyond	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The
08:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
08:30 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Tour of Duty	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Army Newswatch	Fit Hood On Track
09:30 AM	Army Newswatch	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Recon Revisited	EXchange On Air	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon
10:00 AM	Grill Sergeants, The	VA News	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Recon
10:15 AM	-	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-
10:30 AM	Sun City Soldier	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Recon Revisited
11:00 AM	Recon	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	Today's Air Force	Army Newswatch
11:30 AM	FNG	Army Newswatch	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	All Hands TV	This Week in the Pentagon
12:00 PM	Today's Air Force	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Grill Sergeants, The
12:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
01:30 PM	Recon Revisited	Recon	Recon Revisited	Recon	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	Balad and Beyond
02:00 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	All Hands TV
02:30 PM	National Guard News	Grill Sergeants, The	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report
02:45 PM	-	-	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report
03:00 PM	Around the Services	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Army Newswatch
03:30 PM	Around the Services	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week	This Week in the Pentagon	Grill Sergeants, The	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force
04:00 PM	Around the Services	Today's Air Force	Grill Sergeants, The	Tour of Duty	Army Newswatch	Today's Air Force	Recon
04:30 PM	Around the Services	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	This Week in the Pentagon
05:00 PM	Around the Services	Pacific Report	This Week in the Pentagon	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	FNG
05:15 PM	-	AFN Europe Report	-	-	-	-	-
05:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
06:00 PM	Benning Report, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services
06:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services
07:00 PM	VA News	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Around the Services
07:15 PM	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-	-
07:30 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	AFN Europe Report	Around the Services
07:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	Pacific Report	-
08:00 PM	Army Newswatch	Recon	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon Revisited	EXchange On Air	Around the Services
08:30 PM	FNG	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	1st Air Force Now
09:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:30 PM	Today's Air Force	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	National Guard News
10:00 PM	Recon	Today's Air Force	Army Newswatch	All Hands TV	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon
10:30 PM	American Veteran, The	American Veteran, The	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	This Week in the Pentagon	Pacific Report	Benning Report, The
10:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	AFN Europe Report	-
11:00 PM	USARJ This Week	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange	Downrange
11:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	-

Ferry trying to ford a budget gap

America's last hand-poled ferry faces closure

Hatton ferry operator Ashley Pillar jams a pole into the water as he guides the ferry from the south bank of the James River near Scottsville, Va.

Below: Pillar guides a truck onto the ferry on the north bank of the James River.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HELBER
AP



By BOB LEWIS
The Associated Press

SCOTTSVILLE, Va.

For more than 130 years, ferrymen have jammed poles into the James River's gravelly shallows to push the Hatton Ferry slowly across to the other side.

The unique calling is now possibly days from extinction. America's last known hand-poled ferry is a casualty of ebbing state finances and politics.

On Wednesday, Virginia was set to stop funding the Hatton Ferry. Unless private donors, nonprofits or local governments find the cash to keep it open.

"The future is your kids, our kids, our grandkids, and when this is gone, it's gone forever," said Ashley Pillar, 30, who grew up around Hatton's ferrymen on the flat-bottomed

steel barge. He became its operator in 2002.

The ferry powered by human muscle is a romantic relic and historical anachronism that hasn't been commercially significant in decades.

But amid the unspoiled Blue Ridge foothills that harbor Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate and that inspired television's nostalgic series "The Waltons," the Hatton Ferry is a treasure of the heart, not a balance sheet asset.

"I grew up with that ferry," said Frank Tapscott, 89, who remembers taking mule-drawn wagonloads of railroad timbers across the ferry a lifetime ago when an uncle owned it.

"We took it when we'd go buying things at Christmas time, and crossing that ferry was always the highlight. It was like going into a candy store," Tapscott said.

"It just had a wonderful meaning to the people who crossed on it."

Through the mid-20th century, the ferry crossed 80 to 100 times a day, Pillar said. The general store, post office and railroad depot served by four passenger trains a day at the Albemarle landing vanished long ago.

The state took over the ferry in 1941, Pillar said.

In 1972, flooding from Hurricane Agnes destroyed the ferry and the state considered closing it, but a local outcry championed by Richard Thomas, the actor who portrayed John Boy in "The Waltons," spared it.

With state and federal transportation dollars evaporating, Virginia axed the \$21,000 annual Hatton Ferry allocation along with dozens of other projects.

"You have to decide what's a transporta-

tion initiative and that's a historic initiative, not transportation," said state transportation board member John J. "Butch" Davies. "Now the focus is where it should have been in the first place: with historical groups."

Albemarle's board of supervisors were set to vote on Wednesday on whether to spend \$5,000 to keep the ferry afloat through September, hoping private or nonprofit benefactors will step in and defray the cost.

It now operates weekends, holidays and special occasions, provided the river is neither too high nor too low. The ride is free.

Sherry Zak and Virginia Mawyer of Charlottesville for years had wanted to ride the ferry. "We really are afraid they're going to close it, so we want to ride it and see what it's all about," Zak said as the barge glided smoothly through the swirling current. "I mean, look at this. Wow."

Allen and Michele Hauptman drove in from nearby Palmyra, incredulous that so inexpensive an operation is losing state money. A hot dog roast, Allen Hauptman joked, could almost raise the cash. His wife suggested a toll or a donation box.

"You know why this is a good time for that? Because people want to hang on to America," Michele Hauptman said.

Tom Freeman, 50, who lives just a couple of miles from the ferry, may have the most compelling interest in its survival. He booked it for his Sept. 5 wedding to Stephanie Kellogg, 46, who just moved to Virginia from Wisconsin.

"I figured we'd go halfway out on the river, pause it there and do our vows with close friends and family — well, as many as we can put on the ferry," Freeman said.

Learn what's new in STARS AND STRIPES.

Science & Medicine EACH MONDAY

A look at news that shapes our world, from beyond our planet to the frontiers of medical technology, energy development and the earth's changing climate.

FACES

Eldest Jonas brother engaged

Hold onto your hearts, Jonas Brothers fans: One brother is off the market.

The eldest Jonas brother, Kevin, and his girlfriend Danielle Deleasa were engaged Wednesday. The 21-year-old Jonas is one-third of the popular Jonas Brothers, along with Joe and Nick Jonas.

A spokeswoman for the Jonas Brothers confirmed the engagement. In a statement, Kevin's parents, Kevin Sr. and Denise Jonas, said they were "filled with joy."

The young couple have not yet set a date.

Their engagement was first reported by People magazine. People quoted Kevin Jonas as describing his girlfriend's reaction as "yes, yes, yes, like 500 times super fast in a row."

— The Associated Press

Duff to be a 'Gossip Girl'

At last, CW's "Gossip Girl" is getting an injection of class.

Entertainment Weekly Online says singer-actress Hilary Duff will join the show beginning with the Oct. 5 episode. H.D. (a great modernist poet in her own right) will bring poetry and light to the show as a film star who wants to have a normal college life at NYU.

— The Philadelphia Inquirer



Duff



AP

Kevin Jonas, at 21 the eldest of the famous singing trio, is engaged to his girlfriend of two years.

Leno awarded Web name

Television host Jay Leno has won control of a Web address using the name of his new show.

The U.N.'s World Intellectual Property Organization says current owner Guadalupe Zambrano of Katy, Texas, will have to transfer the domain name — thejaylenoshow.com — to the comedian.

The agency says Zambrano failed to dem-

onstrate he had a legitimate reason for registering the address five years ago while Leno was still hosting "The Tonight Show."

Zambrano used the site to redirect Web surfers to his real estate business.

"The Jay Leno Show" premieres Sept. 14 stateside on NBC.

— The Associated Press

Sarandon, Robbins raise funds

Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins are appearing in

Maine next week to raise money for a historic theater in downtown Bar Harbor.

On July 8, the Criterion Theatre will show the 1988 movie "Bull Durham," in which Sarandon and Robbins starred with Kevin Costner.

Sarandon owns a lakefront property nearby. The actors, who have two sons together, met while filming "Bull Durham."

— The Associated Press

Paltrow: Teen trip to Spain changed my life

Gwyneth Paltrow speaks almost perfect Spanish — and she does it with an Iberian accent.

The Oscar-winning actress says she traveled to Spain as a teenager, fell in love with the country, and embraces the culture to the point that she visits at least once a year and makes sure her young children, Apple and Moses, also speak the language.

"When I was 15, I went to a small town outside Talavera de la Reina and I had the most wonderful experience. It really changed my life," Paltrow said in fluent Spanish during a recent interview.

Paltrow said Spain "became a second home."

"It is so different from the United States. It seemed to have a history, and the buildings are years and years and years old. Here in the United States an old building is about 17 (years old), and over there it's from 500 B.C., it's incredible," she said.

"Also, the way people live over there. They seem

to enjoy life a little bit more. They aren't running around as much as in New York. They enjoy time with the family. They don't always have their BlackBerry on."

The 36-year-old actress, who is married to Coldplay's Chris Martin, says she talks to her children in Spanish. "Moses speaks a little bit, but understands everything. Apple speaks a lot," she says.

Paltrow is writing a book on U.S. cuisine with Spanish influence that is due out next year.

"I love food, I love to eat," she says. "I can't go on diets. I have to do a lot of exercise."

Paltrow recently launched a Spanish-language version of her Web site, GOOP.com, a weekly bulletin in which she writes on topics ranging from health advice and travel to fashion and cooking. She is currently shooting "Iron Man 2," in which she reprises her role as Pepper Potts.

— The Associated Press



AP

Gwyneth Paltrow hearts Spain!

'Big Brother 11' announces cast

Chima Simone couldn't think of a better place to spend the recession than the "Big Brother" house.

"I thought it'd be fun," said the 32-year-old freelance journalist, one of 13 contestants who will be locked away for the 11th season. "... I thought 'Big Brother' would be a great way to make a ton of money in a limited time without really having to work for it."

Simone will be among the houseguests competing for the voyeuristic CBS reality show's \$500,000 grand prize, awarded to the contestant who outlasts the rest while being monitored by dozens of cameras inside a makeshift two-story house on a soundstage.

This summer's contestants also include a surfer, bikini model, "World of Warcraft" gamer, a neuroscientist, tae kwon do champion and fifth-grade teacher.

This season, the California-themed "Big Brother" dwelling will go green with several eco-friendly touches including organic soap in the bathroom, energy-producing exercise bikes in the gym and composting bins in the back yard. Executive producer Allison Grodner teased that one of the three bedrooms, a jungle-themed enclave, will feature a nasty surprise.

"It is a room that will test their resolve," Grodner said during a recent tour of the newest "Big Brother" house. "I will go out on a limb and say that it is the worst room to sleep in any 'Big Brother.' After 11 seasons, that's saying a lot. This is a special treat for the houseguests. Each week, one group of houseguests will end up in this room."

The cast will be divided into teams. One clique will be joined by a mystery 13th houseguest when the show premieres stateside Thursday.

— The Associated Press

FRANKENsenator

Who should spoof former comedian on 'SNL'?

Al Franken's torn over who he'd like to see turn the parody tables on him.

As a former "Saturday Night Live" cast member headed to the U.S. Senate, he could be a prime spoof target for his former show.

When asked Wednesday who'd be best for the role, Franken first told The Associated Press it may be Fred Armisen, who portrays President Barack Obama in "SNL" skits. He then said occasional guest Alec Baldwin



Franken

might be a better fit.

Franken himself parodied a U.S. senator at least once on "SNL," playing a Democrat at confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

Franken expects to be on the Senate Judiciary Committee, for real, by the time hearings

begin for Obama high court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

— The Associated Press



NBC

Would Fred Armisen, who spoofs President Barack Obama on "Saturday Night Live," make a good mockery of Al Franken?



Perhaps occasional "SNL" guest Alec Baldwin could pull off a believable Franken impression.

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®

Q Will John Corbett, who played one of Sarah Jessica Parker's lovers in the TV version of "Sex and the City," appear in the second film adaptation? — K. Flynn, Pittsburgh

A "I don't see any room for my character," Corbett told us from Canada, where he's filming "Ramona and Bezes" with teen star Selena Gomez. "After all, Sarah Jessica's character is married to Mr. Big." Corbett's second movie with Nia Vardalos, "I Hate Valentine's Day," has just opened in New York and L.A.



AP

Parents and singers JLo and Marc Anthony are still going strong, both in their relationship and in their careers.

shooting the romantic comedy "The Back-Up Plan," and Anthony is putting the final touches on an album set for release at the end of this year.

Q Before she closed her Las Vegas show in 2007, Celine Dion announced that she wanted to have another baby. Has she been successful? — Brian Hogan, Kenosha, Wis.



AP

Singer Celine Dion is determined to have one more child.

was painted black to look like onyx," says Frid, 84. "Many fans have expensive onyx replicas." Incidentally, Frid will make a rare appearance at this summer's Dark Shadows festival and may also do a cameo in the planned big-screen remake starring Johnny Depp.

Q Did I hear Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson say that the perfect 10s she received on "Dancing With the Stars" were the first of her career? — Kathleen Summers, Cape May Court House, N.J.

A "That's true," Shawn, 17, tells us. "I haven't earned any 10s in gymnastics — at least not yet." The 4-foot-10 dynamo, who won a gold on the balance beam plus an all-around silver at the 2008 Olympics, is getting into shape for the 2012 Games. She also has movie deals in the works and a follow-up to her 2008 memoir in mind.

Q Are Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony still together? What are they up to these days? — James Santomen, Lakehurst, N.J.

A Though competing careers and frequent separations can plague Hollywood couples, Lopez and Anthony are still going strong. Having taken time off to rear their twins, Max and Emme, now 16 months old, Lopez is

Not yet. But Dion, 41, tells us that she and her husband, René Angélil, 67, are trying for a second child, using embryos they banked in 2001 before he underwent chemotherapy for cancer. Their son, René-Charles, 8, was also conceived through in vitro fertilization. Dion is so determined to have another child now that she isn't going back to work until 2010. See photos of other celebrity moms over 40 at Parade.com/moms

Q As a fan of the daytime vampire series "Dark Shadows," I'd like to know what type of ring Barnabas Collins (Jonathan Frid) wore. — Ray Hollingsworth, Nesbit, Miss.

A "The original had a cheap, green stone that



Sacramento Bee

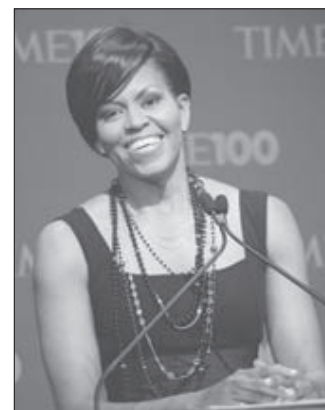
Above: American gymnast Shawn Johnson, shown performing a gold medal-winning balance beam routine Aug. 19 in the Beijing Olympics, never scored an elusive 10 in gymnastics. But during her championship run on the television show "Dancing With the Stars," she and partner Mark Ballas (below) achieved perfection.



ABC

Q I saw that picture in PARADE of Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik wearing a chestful of medals. What are they for? — Capt. G.B. Bradbeer, USN (ret.), Northfield, Ohio

A Prince Frederik served in the Danish armed forces for several years. But most of his medals are non-military, including the Knight of the Order of the Elephant, which is worn by members of the royal family and can be given to foreign heads of state and the occasional commoner. A thoroughly modern monarch, the prince reportedly also sports some tattoos: a shark on his right calf and his nickname, Pingo ("Penguin"), from his time in Denmark's elite Frogman Corps, on his left bicep.



AP

First lady Michelle Obama stands at least as tall as all the first ladies who went before her.

Q Is Michelle Obama the tallest first lady ever? — Ron Foster, Cypress, Texas

A Some reports give that distinction to Eleanor Roosevelt, but according to the FDR Library, Mrs. Roosevelt stood at 5 feet 11 — the same height as Mrs. Obama.

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Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Send your questions to Walter Scott at Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

Sunday Horoscope

As love goddess Venus leaves sensual, earthy Taurus to visit intellectual Gemini, you may find yourself taking a wizened, sassier approach to love. There's a delicate balance to walk here. You may know what you want out of relationships, but don't close your mind to all of the possibilities. Someone who seems all wrong could be all right.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(JULY 5). In the next 10 weeks, you will succeed wildly by exceeding the expectations of you. You bring humor and creativity to every task. Loved ones appreciate it and clients and bosses pay you high dollar. A special event unites your team in August. A financial breakthrough comes from September's education. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You try to be on time, though lately your trials are in vain. Break the trend before you're branded "punctually challenged" by all who know you. Give yourself more time to get from here to there. Plan for interruptions and traffic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are driven by the fire inside you. You'll do things that others won't understand because you are deeply committed to an endeavor. "Whatever it takes" is your motto.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Ennui is knocking at your door. Don't let him in! Get creative. Take out that list of things you want to do someday and make this your "someday" for one of the items.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have competition. This game you are playing isn't obvious to the rest of the people around you. You'll win by being subtle, powerful and cool. Take the high road every time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be in position to speak as an expert or tell a story. Your extemporaneous remarks will come off brilliantly. Little does your audience know, those are the ones you've rehearsed the most.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

The cat finds its own way out of the tree. An apparently dead plant spontaneously revives. A teenager remembers to say "please" and "thank you." Be on the lookout for these and other daily miracles.

Holiday Mathis



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Now, in the middle of this very important mission, somehow the word "try" has snuck back into your vocabulary. Send it right back out again. As Jedi Master Yoda said, "Do or do not. There is no try."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

The art of giving is never so apparent as when the gift is a surprise. The reaction you get might be subtle, but have no doubt. Your spontaneous thoughtfulness will cement your place in a friend's heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). For a moment, stop thinking about the end result. How do you feel about the process? If you can't find a way to love the process, you're doing the wrong thing. And if you can love the process, the result will handle itself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Hoping will do no good. Get in motion so that you don't have to hope. You'll know that you can climb the mountain because with every step, that's what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You wake up in a pretty good mood, but it gets even better when you leave the house. Meet new people and tell them what you'd like to do next in your life. One relationship is all it takes to get your dream off the ground.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Everything you experience will have some benefit to you, though this afternoon it will be particularly hard to see. Be patient and kind and by the end of the day, you'll know what all the hassle was for.

Creators Syndicate

Mom not very sympathetic to daughter's fear of heights

Dear Abby: I'm a 15-year-old girl and I have always had a fear of heights. But my mother and sister love thrill rides. As a result, we often go to theme parks. When we do, I'll usually go on a couple of the "kiddie rides," which is what Mom calls "mild" rides. Mom and my sister try to drag me on the roller coasters, but I always say no.

After I refuse a few times, Mom will finally snap. The last time it happened she said: "You know what? I'm not paying for your ticket if you're going to wimp out and not go on any rides."

I have been driven to tears more than once. She won't stop even if my friends are with us. I wish I could stay home when they go, but then my mom accuses me of being "antisocial."

Please tell me what I can do or say to her to make her stop doing this.

—Tired Teen in Colton, N.Y.

Dear Tired Teen: Your mother may think that your refusal to go on the roller coaster (etc.) is a bid for attention, but she is wrong. She isn't taking into consideration how severe a fear of heights can be — some people require professional intervention to over-

come it, and it costs a heck of a lot more than a ticket to a theme park. Because you can't seem to get through to her, appeal to one of her friends or a close relative to help you get the message across.

Believe me, you have my sympathy.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: In December, right before Christmas, my daughter and I went shopping. We visited several stores in a strip mall in the small town where we live. After returning to my vehicle, I left the wheelchair I use for long distances at the back for my daughter to load.

We were getting ready to leave town. I hurried home, wrapped the gifts I had bought, then rushed out again to deliver them in the next town. When we reached our next stop, I realized I had left my wallet in the pocket of my wheelchair. When I asked my daughter to retrieve it, she looked at me and said, "You took the wheelchair out?" That was when we realized she had forgotten to load it.

I started calling the stores to ask if anyone had turned in a wallet and wheelchair. The answer was no. When I decided to call the sheriff's department and ask

if anyone had turned the items in, the dispatcher began asking me all kinds of questions about my whereabouts and safety. Abby, they thought I had been kidnapped! I felt terrible for upsetting everyone.

I would like to thank the good Samaritan who turned in my wheelchair and my wallet, intact, with nothing missing. The items in it could have been replaced, but there is no way I could have replaced the wheelchair because it was expensive.

I would also like to thank the sheriff's department, which had a deputy at the door before I was off the phone with the dispatcher, for their quick response.

—Ginger in Live Oak, Fla.

Dear Ginger: I'm pleased to publish your testimonial to the fact that there are honest, caring people in this world. Of course, it's no surprise, but we seem to hear an awful lot more about sociopaths and psychopaths than we do the good people who make up the vast majority. And hats off to your sheriff's department, who handled the situation with proficiency, humanity and professionalism.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

Watching porn while girlfriend is away not a unique situation

I checked my boyfriend's online history (okay, invaded his privacy) and saw he'd been looking up porn all day yesterday and the day before while home with the flu. I freaked! We'd talked about porn before. He said he watched it in his younger days, but didn't anymore, so I was surprised. I confronted him, and he said he'd been bored and curious, but doesn't watch porn regularly. I don't know whether I believe him. I've heard people get addicted to porn. Beyond that, there are the unrealistic images of women.

The fact that he initially lied makes me worry he has a problem.

—Smut Patrol

You thought you'd come home, ask what your poor sick bunny did all day, and learn that he was weak and feverish, but not too weak and feverish to spend eight hours straight picking out a ring and poring over all the great wedding gifts on Tiffany's website. Whoops ... it seems he was actually on the other Tiffany's site — watching and rewatching "Tiffany Gives Heidi Her Sponge Bath."

Yeah, right ... he only watched porn in his "younger days" — like last week, when he was approximately five days younger. And then, wouldn't you know it, he got "bored and curious," as in, "Yawn ... I wonder what really enormous

fake breasts look like." Bored? Sure. Curious? Right. What is he, an 8-year-old who has yet to hack through the parental controls on Mommy's laptop?

Actually, he's a man, with male sexuality, which evolved to be highly visual and variety-driven, probably because the more indiscriminate sex a guy had, the more likely he was to pass on his genes. Because women get pregnant and saddled with the kids, they evolved to be choosy and seek men who show a willingness to commit. Erotica targeted to each sex plays out along these lines, notes evolutionary psychologist Catherine Salmon. While men have nudie porn, women have commitment porn — the romance novel — with equally "unrealistic images" of male behavior. Yet, you don't see men picketing the Harlequin rack at the grocery store, complaining that women will expect a dark, imposing prince to ride up on a white horse, pledge his everlasting love (while revealing some seriously ripped abs), and carry them back to his castle.

If you want the truth about porn, ask your boyfriend whether he prefers naughty nurses to other naked professionals. Because male and female sexual psycholo-

gies are largely at odds, men hide their porn consumption while women hide their more female-centric pastimes — like loading their photo and their boyfriend's into morphthing.com to see what the children would look like. Porn, like anything that rings bells in the brain's pleasure center, can be addictive, but suspecting the guy's addicted merely because he watches it is like suspecting he's addicted to food because he ate a double cheeseburger.

Okay, so he watched porn for two days straight while home with the flu. If he's always out with "the flu," yet his only symptoms are a really bad case of carpal tunnel and being too weak to have sex with you, that's when you start worrying. Regardless, you don't get to paw through his Internet history. Figure out whether you're getting your needs met, and if you aren't, tell him, and see whether he'll do something to change that. Remember, there are men who never look at porn. You'll find them where all the rapists are rich and handsome and where nobody ever gets knocked up by the bus driver; in other words, wherever books like Harlequin's "Billionaire Prince, Pregnant Mistress" and "Pregnant with the Billionaire's Baby" are sold.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com (www.advicegoddess.com)

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CREATORS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

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Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9.

For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's solution

1	5	7	8	9	6	4	3	2
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2	6	3	7	1	5	8	4	9
5	8	1	9	4	2	7	6	3
4	1	5	2	7	3	6	9	8
6	7	2	4	8	9	3	5	1
3	9	8	6	5	1	2	7	4

Driver pleads to 15th DUI charge

NJ MORRISTOWN — A New Jersey man whose driver's license has been suspended 78 times has pleaded guilty to his 15th drunken-driving offense.

Shaun Campbell of East Rutherford told a judge he had been drinking "quite a bit" of beer when he crashed his SUV head-on into a pickup in April. The truck's occupants, a man and his 4-year-old daughter, were not seriously hurt.

The 40-year-old Campbell's blood-alcohol level was .288 percent, more than triple the state's legal limit.

Authorities say Campbell's license has been suspended 78 times in 22 years. He still faces drunken-driving charges in two other New Jersey cities.

Burglar strikes a pose for victim's cell phone

VA SUFFOLK — Suffolk police say they now have a suspect to go with an image of a person who snapped a photo of himself with a cell phone belonging to the owner of the home he burglarized.

Police say a 17-year-old Suffolk resident faces charges of burglary and larceny. They're not identifying him because he's underage.

The burglary happened in early June. Detectives think the person unsuccessfully tried to make a phone call using the phone, then used the camera function to photograph himself.

Come for the prayer, stay for beer ... and bring Fido

TX AUSTIN — A nondenominational church is conducting Sunday services in a bar and allowing dogs to attend with their owners.

The City Community Church meets at La Zona Rosa, a music venue and bar, The Austin American-Statesman reported.

Church members say meeting in a bar and allowing dogs are to serve the community and make people feel comfortable.

Organizers say it takes an hour and a half to make the switch from bar to church by cleaning up beer bottles and installing baby gates.

Scott Harmon says when services are over "it's back to a bar."

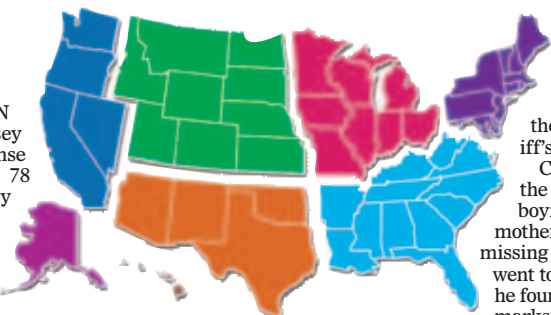
The Rev. Matthias Haeusel says most dogs are well-behaved, although things got awkward when a German shepherd recently tried to eat one of the smaller dogs.

Church, community take aim at bedbugs

NH MANCHESTER — Church and community groups in Manchester are part of an unusual campaign to get the bedbugs out of an apartment building that houses refugee families.

The building's owner, tenants and various city agencies have spent years trying to tackle infestations, but the bugs keep coming back.

Two peace and social justice groups — the American Friends Service Committee and the Granite State Organizing Project — now plan to temporarily relocate



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

the tenants, exterminate the bugs and replace furniture and other belongings. They hope to do it with donated services, space and goods.

In addition to helping the 16 families, organizers hope the effort will become a model for similar campaigns elsewhere.

They never stopped believin' they'd break it

NY NEW YORK — The cast and crew of the Broadway musical "Rock of Ages" and hundreds of inspired New Yorkers have broken the world record for the largest air guitar ensemble.

A representative from Guinness World Records counted 810 air guitarists after a matinee performance at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre. That beats the previous world record of 440 people.

William Ocean, the 2007 National Air Guitar champion, taught the audience how to play the air guitar.

The group rocked out to Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" for 2 minutes, 34 seconds.

Officials: Escaped python strangles 2-year-old girl

FL OXFORD — A pet Burmese python measuring more than 8 feet long broke out of a terrarium and strangled a 2-year-old girl in her bedroom at a central Florida home, authorities said.



Free to roam

Three-year-old Evanie Colon walks with her grandfather, Andre Colon, near the Statue of Liberty at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, N.J.

Shaiunna Hare was already dead when paramedics arrived, Lt. Bobby Caruthers of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office said.

Charles Jason Darnell, the snake's owner and the boyfriend of Shaiunna's mother, discovered the snake missing from its terrarium and went to the girl's room, where he found it on the girl and bite marks on her head, Caruthers said. Darnell, 32, stabbed the snake until he was able to pry the child away.

Authorities removed the snake from the home after obtaining a search warrant. The snake was still alive.

Darnell did not have a permit for the snake, which would be a second-degree misdemeanor, said Joy Hill, a spokeswoman with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has not been charged.

State gets \$9.8M from stimulus for housing

HI HONOLULU — U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka say the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has allocated more than \$9.8 million for affordable housing on the islands.

The Hawaii Democrats said in a statement the money comes from federal economic stimulus funds.

They say the money will encourage the development of affordable rental units in the islands.

The money will allow state housing finance agencies to continue funding affordable rental housing.

LAPD: No officers fired for May Day melee

CA LOS ANGELES — Police officials in Los Angeles say none of the officers who pummeled demonstrators with batons and fired rubber bullets during a pro-immigration rally will be fired.

Police Chief William Bratton had asked for the firing of four officers. But he said the stiffest penalty imposed by a department disciplinary board was a 20-day suspension for one officer.

The chief does not have the authority to remove an officer.

Attorney Luis Carillo, who represents 40 demonstrators who sued the city over the May Day melee in 2007, calls the decision a "slap on the wrist."

The melee in MacArthur Park has cost the city \$13 million in legal settlements.

One person's trash is another's furniture

NY NEW YORK — Two New Yorkers hope to sell furniture made from discarded wood and construction materials.

Jon Santiago and Amelia Cu-nard have assembled a team for their startup.

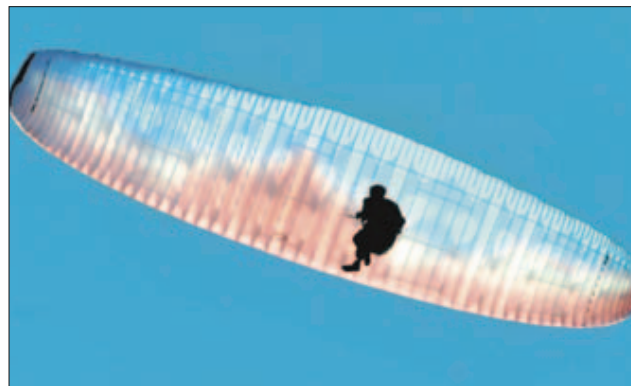
They're partnering with a group called Sustainable South Bronx. Now they're looking for more financing and a warehouse.

Suppliers will include a New Jersey furniture company that produces "tons of waste" and a group called Build it Green. The latter finds a home for construction waste bound for landfills.



A fudge lover's dream

Chunks of the World Record fudge bar sit waiting to be divided and weighed at Lansing Community College's West campus in Delta Township, Mich.



Sailing away

Dave Cantrell brings his paraglider in for a landing near Phoenix, Ore., during the seventh annual Rat Race, which starts on Woodrat Mountain near Ruch, Ore.



Hair on the 'Skitz'

A 15-year-old from El Paso, Texas, who identified himself only as "Skitz" listens to the band Superman Is Dead at the Vans Warped Tour '09 in Las Cruces, N.M.



Stars and Stripes for acres Ken Cardwell of Bowling Green, Ky., paints stars on an American flag that is larger than two football fields on Cemetery Road in the front yard of Bob Burr's home. Burr has had the flag painted in his yard every Fourth of July holiday since 2002. The largest one was more than four acres.



What's my name? A female California sea lion pup calls out at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. The zoo is inviting the public to submit an entry for the pup's name.



To the rescue Schenectady firefighter Phil Pelletier, left, hands Carrie Donofrio of Guilderland, N.Y., a rope after she became stranded on the roof of her mini van in rising floodwaters under the Weaver Street bridge in Schenectady, N.Y.

O, boy: Dems circle GOP contender over 'O'

ME AUGUSTA — The executive director of the Democratic Party in Maine is accusing a Republican who's considering a run for governor of stealing the stylized "O" from President Barack Obama's Web site.

Arden Manning says Les Otten's "O" is a close copy of one on the Obama Web site.

The attack isn't sitting well with Otten. He says the Democratic Party appears to have forgotten that others have noted the Obama "O" looks like the Pepsi logo.

But he also says his exploratory committee didn't copy anyone's Web site. He says it was built "from scratch" by a local company.

Top violinist fighting Internet sex charge

WV CHARLESTON — One of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra's top violinists is fighting extradition to Virginia on charges he used the Internet to try and entice a 14-year-old girl into having sex.

Luigi Peracchia was arrested in March by State Police acting on a warrant issued by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department.

Police say the 41-year-old violinist solicited what he thought to be an underage girl for sex.

John Flannery, Peracchia's lawyer, says the case hasn't been raised in the proper jurisdiction and that it should be a federal matter.

An August hearing is scheduled.

11-year-old boy takes teacher's car for joy ride

TX HOUSTON — An 11-year-old student with special needs was pulled over by police for running a stop sign after he took his teacher's car for a joy ride.

The boy took his teacher's car keys at the Academic and Behavior Center East after telling her he needed to return to the bathroom, which he had just gone to. He headed to the parking lot for her car.

Police called school officials two hours later saying they had pulled him over after he ran a stop sign. The Houston Chronicle reported.

No injuries were reported.

He also took an assistant principal's car for a brief ride in March 2008.

Police: Suspect in strip club attack arrested

RI PROVIDENCE — A 32-year-old man who fled Rhode Island after allegedly wounding three people when he opened fire inside a strip club has been arrested in Atlanta.

Police spokeswoman Lindsay Richardson said Jonathan Quaway was arrested after police received a tip he was hiding in the city.

Quaway faces charges of assault with a dangerous weapon. He was recently featured on "America's Most Wanted."

An employee at the Sportsman's Inn said he argued with Quaway on March 24 before four patrons forced Quaway out the club's front door.

Quaway allegedly returned a short time later and opened fire, shooting a bartender, a dancer and a customer. All survived.

Officer being investigated for punching woman

CT STAMFORD — A police officer in Connecticut is under investigation for allegedly punching a Stamford woman in the forehead when he arrested her for driving without a license.

Stamford police say they haven't received a formal complaint against Officer Gregory Zach, but they began investigating anyway because the incident is serious. There's a picture of the woman with a large bump on her forehead that appeared in the media.

Police spokesman Lt. Sean Cooney says the woman, 40-year-old Brenda Mazariegos, punched Zach in the mouth and he had to use force against her.

Task force arrests 10 in oil theft ring

TX ODESSA — Ten people have been arrested in the theft of about \$2 million worth of oil and gas condensate from oil companies and producers in West Texas.

The arrests came following a seven-month investigation by a regional oil theft task force.

Six of the suspects face charges of federal wire fraud, mail fraud and conspiracy. Four were arrested on state money laundering charges.

Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter tells the Odessa American the suspects stole about 8,000 barrels of oil in one month alone.

Carnegie medals for heroism awarded

PA PITTSBURGH — A 12-year-old Maryland boy who died trying to rescue his younger brother from an icy pond is one of 22 people awarded Carnegie medals for heroism.

Aaron Robinson of Cambridge, Md., fell through ice and drowned attempting to rescue his 8-year-old brother, Jairus, on Feb. 11, 2007. Jairus Robinson also died.

Three other people honored by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission died trying to rescue people.

Pittsburgh steel baron Andrew Carnegie started the fund in 1904 after hearing rescue stories from a mine disaster that killed 181 people. Since then, \$31.5 million has been awarded to 9,284 people. Medalists, or their heirs, receive \$6,000.

Bright glow of volcano smothered by rock falls

HI VOLCANO — The bright glow at the summit of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano has been snuffed out by a series of large rock falls within its crater.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory says the rock falls within the Halemaumau vent produced a seismic signal equivalent to a magnitude-2.4 earthquake.

The rumble was felt at the observatory and the adjacent Jaggar Museum.

Chunks of the vent rim fell into the cavity in the floor of the crater. In all, more than 30 rim collapses were recorded.

Vent collapses are often the result of a drop in the level of lava in the vent, which destabilize its walls.

Stories and photos from wire services

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OPINION

The U.S. in Iraq: An audit of the pain

By LINDA J. BILMES
AND JOSEPH STIGLITZ

Tuesday, the U.S. "stood down" in Iraq, finalizing the pullout of 140,000 troops from Iraqi cities and towns — the first step on the long path home. After more than six years, most Americans are war-weary, even though a smaller percentage of us have been involved in the actual fighting than in any major conflict in U.S. history. We have relegated the car and suicide bombings to the inside pages of newspapers, accepting at face value that the "surge" has calmed things down enough so we can finally leave the whole sorry Iraq adventure behind us.

But not so fast. The conflict that began in 2003 is far from over for us, and the next chapter — confronting a Taliban that reasserted itself in Afghanistan while the U.S. was sidetracked in Iraq — will be expensive and bloody. The death toll for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan reached 5,000 last month. An additional 80,000 Americans have been wounded or injured since the war in Iraq began. More than 300,000 of our troops have required medical treatment, and Army statistics show that more than 17 percent of our returning soldiers suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, even though most of the population has long told pollsters they can't wait for U.S. forces to leave, U.S. officials have said we are likely to station 50,000 troops at military bases in the country for the foreseeable future. This is because the situation in Iraq is highly precarious. The country ranks high on lists of the most dangerous places on Earth, with a continual stream of suicide bombings and murders targeting political and religious leaders as well as civilians. According to the Brookings Institution's Iraq Index, 2 million people — largely from the middle class by most accounts — fled Iraq during the war, but only a handful have returned. (The vast majority of Iraq's doctors, lawyers and other professionals are living abroad, and many are seeking asylum.) An additional 2.7 million "internal" refugees — 10 percent of the population — abandoned their homes, and most are too frightened to go back. The struggle for

power among Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis is still in flux. ...

Moreover, the U.S. barely has begun to face the enormous financial bill for the war. By our accounting, the U.S. has already spent \$1 trillion on operations and related defense spending, with more to come — and it will cost perhaps \$2 trillion more to repay the war debt, replenish military equipment and provide care and treatment for U.S. veterans back home. Many of the wounded will require indefinite care for brain and spinal injuries. Disability payments are ramping up and will grow higher for decades. The stress of extended, multiple tours to Iraq means that a whole generation of U.S. military men and women may now be suffering from long-term mental health issues. The suicide rate in the Army is at its highest level since record-keeping began.

This wartime spending undoubtedly has been a major contributor to our present economic collapse. The U.S. has waged an expensive war as if it required little or no economic sacrifice, funding the conflict by massive borrowing. As we've observed in the past, you can't spend \$3 trillion on a reckless foreign war and not feel the pain at home. Burned by the difficulties in Iraq, our political leaders have no illusions about the length and difficulty of the challenge facing us in Afghanistan. But in other respects we seem set to repeat the same mistakes that we made in Iraq. The president has just signed yet another "emergency" supplemental appropriations measure (\$80 billion) to fund continuing operations in Iraq and expansion into Afghanistan. This means that for the 30th time since 2001, war spending has been rushed through the budget process without serious scrutiny.

The U.S. has 240,000 contractors working in the two war theaters — but the Pentagon's oversight of independent contractors remains lax. The Army Criminal Investigation Command — which just a few weeks ago brought fraud charges against a contractor responsible for supplying our troops with bulletproof vests — is woefully understaffed, with fewer than 100 people to investigate billions of dollars in alleged war profiteering.

Obstacles continue to beset returning veterans too. Despite an increase in the Department of Veterans Affairs budget, the backlog of disability claims has reached its highest level, and the budget for helping returning veterans reintegrate into civilian life is less than we spend in a single day of combat operations.

Early this year, President Barack Obama committed 20,000 troops to a "surge" in Afghanistan. That, combined with a large, ongoing presence in Iraq and continued reliance on contractors for virtually every aspect of military support, remains a recipe for staggering out-of-control expenditures. Surely we can draw some lessons from the Iraq debacle and set aside money to care for our veterans, crack down on fraud and profiteering, and account for the true costs of the war in the budget so the American taxpayer can see what we are paying for.

Linda J. Bilmes of Harvard University is a former assistant secretary of Commerce. Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University is a winner of the Nobel Prize in economics and a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors. They are the co-authors of "The Three Trillion Dollar War: The True Cost of the Iraq Conflict." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Many invested in Iraq time line

The Philadelphia Inquirer

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq's cities was the beginning of an end scheduled to be completed by 2012, when all American forces must leave that country.

It's hard to see that happening now, with the situation tenuous. ... But it will have to get a lot worse to alter the time line for withdrawal. The American public is ready to quit Iraq, and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki wants to prove he's his own man before facing an election. ...

Al-Maliki will do whatever it takes to avoid looking as if he needs the "occupiers" to return to the cities. He will work hard to maintain stability, and will likely show little tolerance for dissent. He is also expected to exhibit a growing coziness with Iran, whose tentacles into Iraq grow ever stronger.

The Iraq/Iran relationship must keep President Barack Obama focused on achieving a regional solution to the area's volatility. Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed out at Obama for criticizing the fraud in Iran's recent presidential elections. But Obama shouldn't give up on someday finding a way to gather the region's nations for a conference.

Meanwhile, Americans will be hoping as much as the Iraqis that U.S. troops won't have to be invited back into the cities to resume full combat operations.

Madoff scandal far from over

St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

Bernard Madoff got what he deserved. The 71-year-old financial swindler will never see another day as a free man after being sentenced Monday to 150 years in federal prison. While a 25-year sentence would have surely accomplished the same result, meting out the maximum sentence was a symbolic nod to the scope of Madoff's investment fraud and the number of lives he ruined.

In the end, no one stood up for Madoff. No one sent a letter of support to vouch for his character, not even his wife. Madoff is abjectly alone. He exploited his personal relationships to enrich himself and keep his \$65 billion Ponzi scheme humming. It is fitting that he will die destitute, the way he left so many of his "friends."

But Madoff's sentencing is not the end of things. Investigators need to unearth the entire web of Madoff's fraud, and prosecutors need to charge those who helped perpetuate it. And the Securities and Exchange Commission needs to learn from its mistakes. The outsized investment swindle that Madoff maintained for 20 years suggests that there may have been others who advanced or concealed the fraud. So far only Madoff's auditor has been criminally charged. ...

Madoff's victims deserve a thorough criminal investigation and a fair distribution of whatever assets remain. But they also deserve an honest appraisal of what went wrong at the SEC.

Not buying government model

The (Maryville, Tenn.) Daily Times

Lee Iacocca had some interesting comments recently regarding the automotive industry.

For younger readers, Iacocca, now 84, is a slick pitchman who became an American hero in the early 1980s when he used more than \$1 million in government loan guarantees to rescue the nearly defunct



Chrysler. He achieved what many thought was impossible. He paid back the 10-year loan in three years. He credited the quick success in repaying the loan to the fact that government intervention was strong motivation to repay the loan early. ...

Of course, Chrysler and GM are in the midst of a brutal recession and the worst auto sales slump in a quarter century. Each is receiving billions in government loans. ...

Concerning Japanese competition, he said Japan has advantages over the Detroit automakers, especially with its home country closing its market to foreign competition.

He was unapologetic for Chrysler selling hundreds of thousands of SUVs led by the Jeep brand, saying the company was merely responding to the market. ...

Private management hasn't been good or the manufacturers would not be in their current predicament. However, we still feel government needs to stay out of management of American industry. We don't think any business or industry could long survive if [it] experienced the widespread waste so evident in our federal government in recent decades.

Transportation plan not cheap

Los Angeles Times

It's remarkable what Congress can do when money is no object, as the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure demonstrated when it put out a blueprint for a reauthorization bill to govern the nation's spending on transportation. It's a cornucopia of goodies that's getting strong reviews from interest groups, mainly because it gives them nearly everything they've been asking for: Environmentalists get a new bureaucracy to encourage green projects, public transit agencies get a big influx of cash, high-speed rail enthusiasts get new trains, and states get billions in additional money to build and improve roads, bridges and highways.

There's just one small detail that has been left out — so far, the committee hasn't identified a way to pay for any of this. And the price tag is breathtaking: \$500 billion over six years, a 53 percent hike over transportation spending in the previous six.

As much as we appreciate getting an advance look at House Democrats' thinking on the transportation bill, they seem to be putting the caboose before the locomotive. The blueprint lays out some forward-thinking ways of reinventing the transportation finance system, whose structure was created in 1956 and is badly in need of an overhaul. But it puts off until later the far more important questions about funding, and without those answers, the blueprint amounts to little more than a utopian fantasy.

House shines on clean energy

The Santa Fe New Mexican

[T]he House of Representatives narrowly approved the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which promises, among other things, to make solar and other alternative energy a big part of our country's future. ...

Then came another commitment to solar energy: Interior Secretary Ken Salazar joined Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in Las Vegas to announce fast-track plans for solar generating plants in six Western states: New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, California, Colorado and Utah. ...

So all this is far from the realm of science fiction; some reputable firms are putting plenty of capital into alternative energy. And in the meantime, wind generators, once scoffed at by the get-a-horse establishment, are busily spinning electricity out on the llanos of New Mexico and, ironically, above the sagebrush of Wyoming not far from where Big Coal is gouging away at the Earth. ...

The shift from carbon-burning electricity still could take many years. But if the Senate turns out to be as serious as the House is about clean energy, and at least somewhat resistant to the forces of finite resources, the transition could begin in earnest.

Get last 4 on board with DNA

(Kingston, N.Y.) Daily Freeman

We are not among those who believe the answer to every injustice is to be found in judicial interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. ... But it's hard to understand the logic of the Supreme Court, which recently found an Alaskan convict has no constitutional right to DNA testing that might prove his innocence.

In a 5-4 ruling along the usual lines, the majority reasoned, in effect, that justice in 46 out of 50 states is good enough to head off the court's invocation of the due process clause of the Constitution. (The four states that do not provide for consideration of post-conviction DNA testing are Alabama, Alaska, Massachusetts and Oklahoma.)

As for the other four states? Presumably, an unjustly imprisoned convict can take comfort in the reign of justice across, well, most of the land, anyway. ...

This is a case study of what President Barack Obama meant when he said he was looking for someone with empathy to replace the retiring Justice David Souter. That presidential criterion has evoked much derision from Obama's opponents, but a little empathy is all that is necessary for a justice to see the "due process" element of this case through to its commonsensical conclusion.

Sanford violated our trust, too

Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, who "created a fiction" — his euphemism for lied — about a solitary hike along the Appalachian Trail when he was really in Argentina with his mistress, joins the expanding list of elected officials who betrayed the public trust of their constituents and the private trust of their families. ...

Is it unreasonable to expect perfection from elected officials given that they are no more or less human than every other flawed mortal? Yes. But when voting for people to represent them in making serious decisions about policy that will impact generations to come, Americans have in mind the characteristics of what constitutes a leader. Trust and respect rank high among them.

But trust and respect are lanes on a two-way thoroughfare. Leaders must trust and respect the people who put them in positions of power and authority, and the best way to demonstrate that is by valuing and not defiling the office to which they've been elected.

Every new revelation of infidelity or other moral misstep by an elected official does damage to more than that individual's career and family. It diminishes the entire body politic in the eyes of the electorate.

Don't reward Cuban leaders

San Antonio Express-News

The United States has no argument with the people of Cuba. It's the government of Cuba that five decades of American leaders from both parties have opposed. And the reason for that opposition is the Cuban government's treatment of its own citizens — denying them the ability to select their leaders in a democratic process and consistently violating their basic human rights.

If the goal is to succor the people of Cuba, then there's a wide range of policies the United States can promote. Lifting restrictions on travel and the amount of aid Cuban-Americans can send to family members, as the Obama administration has proposed, fits neatly with that objective.

Nothing, however, should be done to strengthen or legitimize the dictatorial rule of the Castro regime.

Unfortunately, that's what the Organization of American States — urged on by Venezuela and Nicaragua — seems to be doing by agreeing to readmit Cuba to the Western Hemispheric grouping.

The OAS expelled Cuba in 1962 because of the incompatibility of its ruling ideology with the organization's democratic standards, reaffirmed in the 2001 Inter-American Democratic Charter. What has changed in Cuba since 1962? Not much.

PERSPECTIVES

In reality, IVF coverage could've helped

Do the Gosselins' multiple multiples make a case for health insurance reform?

By LIZA MUNDY
The Washington Post

Poor Jon and Kate. Their marriage is over, their show on hiatus, their domestic ordeal entering a new phase of acrimony. Possibly nothing could have saved this marriage, but one thing would have made it less fragile: a mandate for health insurance to cover in vitro fertilization.

If the Gosselins, whose efforts to raise eight kids have been chronicled over five seasons on cable television, had enjoyed, and availed themselves of, ready access to IVF — the most sophisticated, controlled and expensive form of fertility treatment — they almost certainly would not have had six children at once. “Just one more baby,” is how Kate described their goal after twins. Without the added stress of sextuplets, they would have had a fighting chance at not fighting nearly as much as they did.

The price tag for health-care reform is already higher than anybody expected, so it's probably unreasonable to think that it could include better insurance coverage for the millions of Americans who suffer from infertility. But such coverage for women of childbearing age could lower the extraordinary health-care costs associated with the birth of triplets or more. And it would even the reproductive odds, giving middle-class and lower-income Americans access to treatment that is currently reserved for the well-off or the unusually well insured.

In the United States, an estimated 1 out of 8 couples experiences infertility, which is defined as the inability to conceive within a year or to bring a pregnancy to term. Often seen, wrongly, as the self-inflicted punishment of working women who waited too long to have children, infertility is the result of a host of conditions — age, yes, but also infections, hormonal imbalances, chromosomal abnormalities and physical blockage of reproductive passages.

It's nearly as common among men as among women, and possibly more common among the poor than among the rich, for the simple reason that the less money you

have, the less likely you are to have had access to health care that could prevent serious consequences from relatively minor infections. Having less money doesn't keep you from seeking infertility treatment — it just means that the treatment you get is more likely to saddle you with high-order multiples, whose care you are least likely to be able to afford.

In their best-selling book “Multiple BlesSings,” Kate describes pretty much that scenario. She and Jon met and married in their early 20s and soon were ready to start having children. ... They were hardly affluent, and Kate ... was very money-conscious. While she doesn't detail what their health insurance covered, the couple lived in Pennsylvania, which like most states does not require insurers to cover IVF, a procedure in which egg and sperm are combined in a petri dish and the resulting embryos transferred into the uterus.

When Kate failed to get pregnant naturally, she sought out a doctor who confirmed that she had polycystic ovary syndrome, a condition in which a woman usually has problems ovulating. Kate writes that her treatment consisted of “painful injections” to stimulate her ovaries. That treatment produced twins. A year later, Kate started longing for another baby. ... Jon was skeptical, but she prevailed. This time, she saw a different specialist. They told him they did not want multiples but would not selectively reduce. ...

The doctor proceeded with treatment, which consisted of injections of fertility drugs, or gonadotropins, combined with intrauterine insemination (IUI), a form of artificial insemination in which the sperm is injected into the uterus. (Kate likely had IUI with her first treatment as well; her book does not make it clear.)

The good thing about this treatment is that it's relatively cheap, a couple thousand dollars compared to the more than \$10,000 average cost for a single round of IVF. The bad thing is that it's notoriously hard to control how many eggs will be fertilized. The IUI/gonadotropin procedure carries, in the words of one recent study, “an increased risk of unpreventable high-order multiple births.” ...

When the Gosselins went for an ultrasound during the treatment, they saw

three, possibly four mature follicles, the cyst-like structures that cradle a developing egg. The doctor, Kate writes, told them that they would be unlikely to end up with three or four babies — an odd claim, if he made it — but said that they could forgo the insemination and try again later. They decided to go ahead. When the sonogram showed seven developing embryos (one would later disappear), Kate writes, Jon dropped to his knees.

The thing is, if they had gone straight to IVF, all of this would have been much less likely to happen. They might well have gotten twins, but they would have been highly unlikely to get six. It's true that in the early days of IVF — the 1980s and '90s — doctors often stuffed lots of IVF embryos into a woman's uterus, because little was known about how many might take. The result was plenty of multiple births. Largely because of IVF and fertility drug treatments, such births in this country have increased dramatically. In 1980, only 1,337 triplets or higher-order multiples were born in the United States; in 1998, that number rose to 7,625, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Babies born as multiples are far more likely to be premature, the health risks to infants and mother are much greater, and the toll on parents of triplets or more — “severe physical and psychological exhaustion” as one study put it — is immense. “Parents of multiples have triple the divorce rate,” Kate Gosselin claimed in a recent episode of “Jon & Kate Plus 8.” While some parents of multiples took issue with the idea that these marriages are unusually strained, even mothers of twins are more likely to experience emotional difficulties such as postpartum depression, points out Patricia Mendell, a psychotherapist and co-chairwoman of the board of directors of the American Fertility Association. ...

In recent years, the rate of triplets and higher births has fallen slightly in the United States, thanks to the efforts of IVF doctors to reduce the number of embryos transferred. ... The American Society for Reproductive Medicine has developed voluntary guidelines saying that no more than two embryos should be transferred in the case of women under 35, and doctors

should consider transferring only one. This is known as Single Embryo Transfer, and it's becoming increasingly common in European countries where IVF is often covered by national health insurance. In this country, only a small number of states mandate insurance coverage of IVF. ...

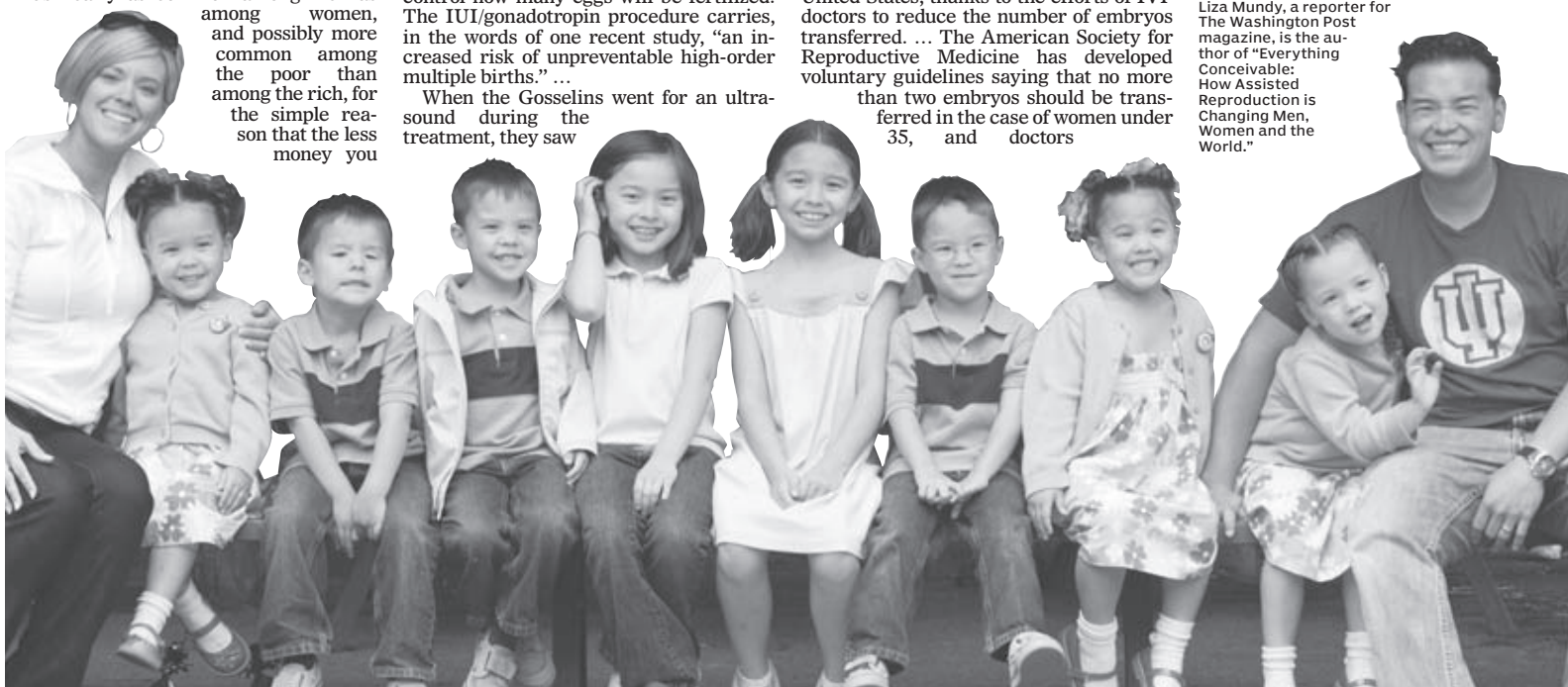
IVF is better for the mother and better for the resulting child, and it is increasingly cost-effective. Recently, a study in the journal *Fertility and Sterility* showed that it often makes sense to bypass IUI/injections and go straight to IVF. ...

And insurance coverage is hardly the big-ticket item you might think: In Massachusetts, which mandates coverage, a 2002 study argued that the rise in the annual premium is really a matter of just a few dollars. Yet replicating Massachusetts around the country is a tall order because of the persistent public view that infertility is somehow not a legitimate disease, or that infertility patients are to blame for their plight.

Last month, advocates descended upon Washington to make their long-shot case for increased insurance coverage for infertility treatments. In Congress, Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., have introduced a bill that would broaden insurance coverage for IVF. Advocates should work to make the long-term benefits clear: fewer high-order multiples, healthier children, less exhausted parents.

TLC has done a lot of the legwork for them. More than 10 million people tuned in to watch the televised implosion of the Gosselin family last month. Maybe no marriage could have survived that many *Us Weekly* covers or that many cameras. But really, it seems to have been the burden of being “plus 8,” when all they wanted was “plus 3.” If sweeping health-care reform includes more substantial IVF coverage, TLC will have fewer candidates for its carnival sideshow offerings, but that's a loss most of us could live with.

Liza Mundy, a reporter for The Washington Post magazine, is the author of “Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction is Changing Men, Women and the World.”



MICHAEL PILLA, TLC/AP

Reality TV stars the Gosselins pose at a party to celebrate the sextuplets' fifth birthday. Kate Gosselin did not employ IVF in either of her pregnancies.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009

	(AFN-ATLANTIC)	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-PACIFIC)	(PENTAGON)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(XTRA)
9:00	CSI: Miami "All In" The team races to save Calleigh.	Sid the Science Kid	John Adams "Peacefield" Adams begins to write his memoirs. (Part 7 of 7)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Ent. Studios	Recon Revisited	MythBusters Adam and Jamie build a cannon.	(8:00) MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Boston Red Sox. From Fenway Park in Boston. (Live)	NASCAR Racing Nationwide Series -- Subway Jalapeno 250. From Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. (Live)
9:30		Phineas and Ferb		Hannity	Criss Angel Mindfreak	State Dept Briefing			
10:00	Oprah Winfrey	The Buzz on Maggie	(19) Movie "First Knight" (1995) Sean Connery. The evil Malagant threatens the peace of Camelot.	Anderson Cooper 360	Dogfights "Flying Tigers"	Fit For Duty	Storm Chasers A tornado chases the chasers.		
10:30		American Drgn				AFN Europe Report			
11:00	Dr. Phil	Teenage Robot		Special Report With Bret Baier	MLB Baseball Baltimore Orioles at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. From Angel Stadium of Anaheim in Anaheim, Calif. (Live)	Fit For Duty	Dirty Jobs Mineral mine; rice plantation.	MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres. From PETCO Park in San Diego. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)	MLB Baseball Houston Astros at San Francisco Giants. From AT&T Park in San Francisco. (Live)
11:30		Static Shock		Campbell Brown		Battleground	Latin Lifestyles		
12:00	CBS Evening News	Teen Kids News				Around the Services	Urban Style		
12:30	ESPNNews	Grossology	(37) Movie "Big Daddy" (1999) Adam Sandler. A goofy ne'er-do-well adopts an impressionable youngster.			FNG Useful benefits.	Designed to Sell		
13:00	NBC Nightly News	Out There		Your World With Neil Cavuto	Access Hollywood	AFN Europe Report	Tyler's Ultimate	SportsCenter	Quick Pitch
13:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funniest Animals	(25) Movie "Independence Day" (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships.	The Rachel Maddow Show	Deadliest Catch "A New Hunt Begins"	The Grill Sergeants	Eureka A world famous scientist visits Eureka.	SportsCenter	NFL Total Access
14:00	Dragon	Faithful Friends		Around the Services	Law & Order "Church"	Fit. Hood on Track	Stargate Atlantis "The Long Goodbye"	Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
14:30	Ribert & Robert's	Hunter's Croc		Nightly Business Report	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Chapin Family"	Recon	AFRC Band Independence Day Special		Top 20 Countdown
15:00	Sonic the Hedgehog	Animal Miracles "In the Face of Adversity"		Nightline	World News-Gibson	Recon Revisited	Concert for the Troops		Top 20 Countdown
15:30	Danny Phantom	Lemur Kingdom		The O'Reilly Factor	ESPNNews	Week-Pentagon			ECW
16:00	Naruto	SpongeBob SquarePants		Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Law & Order A troubled NYPD officer takes hostages.	The Grill Sergeants	Let Freedom Hum: Comedy Hosted by Martin Short		WWE SmackDown!
16:30	Darcy's Wild Life	SpongeBob SquarePants		Today	Leverage "The Stork Job"	Fit For Duty	Ellen's Bigger, Longer and Wider Show		
17:00	Ent. Studios	Bindi the Jungle Girl			48 Hours Mystery A love triangle results in murder.	Battleground	Comedy You Can Believe in With David Alan Grier		
17:30	Criss Angel Mindfreak	The Universe "Life and Death of a Star"		MSNBC Live	Headline News	Balad and Beyond	Saturday Night Live	Sports	Best Damn Sports Show Period
18:00	Dogfights "Flying Tigers"			Bulls and Bears	American Dad	All Hands TV			Attack of the Show!
18:30				Cavuto on Business	'Til Death	Pacific Report			
19:00	Access Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Top 14 dancers perform.	(41) Movie "American Pie" (1999, Comedy) Jason Biggs. Teens agonize over losing their virginity.		Back to You "Pilot"	Week-Pentagon			
19:30									
20:00	Deadliest Catch "A New Hunt Begins"								
20:30	Law & Order "Church"	Dawson's Creek "Kiss"							
21:00									
21:30									
22:00	Law & Order A troubled NYPD officer takes hostages.	Movie "Spider-Man 2" (2004) Tobey Maguire. Peter Parker fights a man who has mechanical tentacles.							
22:30									
23:00	Leverage "The Stork Job"								
23:30									

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2009

00:00	48 Hours Mystery A love triangle results in murder.	(10) The Simpsons	(11:22) Movie "Get Over It" (2001) Kirsten Dunst.	Forbes on FOX	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Sin"	FNG Useful benefits.	(11:30) Austin City Limits	(10:00) Sports	Top 20 Countdown
00:30		(35) The Simpsons		Cashin' In	Without a Trace "A Dollar and a Dream"	Fit For Duty	Keeping Up-Kardashians		
1:00	Sports	So You Think You Can Dance Top 14 dancers perform.	(12:59) Movie "Night of the Creeps" (1986, Horror) Jason Lively, Steve Marshall.	Newsroom	House "Humpty Dumpty" Cuddy's handyman falls.	Around the Services	Wife Swap Children run wild in a traveling carnival.		Top 20 Countdown
1:30				Your Money	Law & Order A troubled NYPD officer takes hostages.	Around the Services	Boston Legal "Spring Fever"		Sports
2:00				This Week in the Pentagon	Leverage "The Stork Job"	Around the Services	Judging Amy "Waterworld"	Sports	
2:30				Wall Street Journal Report	48 Hours Mystery A love triangle results in murder.	First Air Force Now			
3:00		(2:50) Movie "Spider-Man 2" (2004, Action) Tobey Maguire. Peter Parker fights a man who has mechanical tentacles.	(37) Movie "Casino Royale" (2006, Action) Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen. James Bond plays poker with a man who finances terrorists.	America's News HQ	Headline News	National Guard News	Austin City Limits "Jason Mraz; Fountains of Wayne"		
3:30				Newsroom	Our World With	This Week in the Pentagon	Kiana's Flex Appeal		
4:00				McLaughlin Group	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	The Benning Report	Denise Austin's Getting Fit		
4:30				Our World With	FOX Report	Downrange News from Iraq and Afghanistan.	Take Home Chef		
5:00	Sports	Barney & Friends	(18) Movie "American Pie" (1999) Jason Biggs. Teens agonize over losing their virginity.	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Entertainers	The Grill Sergeants	Throwdown With Bobby Flay Music and the Spoken Word		
5:30		Oobi		FOX Report	In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	Fit For Duty	Top 3	Sports	
6:00		Sesame Street		Washington Week in Review	T.D. Jakes	This Week in the Pentagon	Day of Discovery		
6:30				All Hands TV	Love World Finding	USARJ This Week	Cafe Video		
7:00		Swamp Critters	(6:59) Movie "The Thirteenth Floor" (1999) Craig Bierko. A computer expert enters a virtual world to solve a murder.	Today's Air Force	The Pure Life	FNG Useful benefits.	The Universe "Constellations"		
7:30	Sports	Adventures-Book of Virtues	(8:55) Movie "Deep Impact" (1998, Drama) Robert Duvall, Tea Leoni. A large comet is on a collision course with Earth.	The Chris Matthews Show	Grand Ole Opry Live	Fit For Duty	I Shouldn't Be Alive "Lost at Sea"		
8:00		Postman Pat	(05) Movie "Striking Distance" (1993, Suspense) Bruce Willis. A serial killer stalks women known by an outcast ex-cop.	Newsroom		Battleground	Extreme Engineering Replacing a busy bridge.		
8:30		Danger Rangers		Journal Editorial Report	MotorWeek	Fit For Duty	The Suze Orman Show		
9:00		The Magic School Bus	(12:55) Movie "John Paul Jones" (1959) Robert Stack, Marisa Pavan. Based on the life of America's greatest naval hero.	Fox News Watch	At the Movies	Recon Revisited			
9:30		Fetch! With Ruff Ruffman	(13) Movie "Who Am I?" (1998, Action) Jackie Chan, Michelle Ferre. An amnesiac U.S. commando seeks his identity.	Larry King Live	Digging for the Truth "The Vikings: Voyage to America"	All Hands TV	All-Girl Getaways "Chicago"		
10:00		Codename: Kids Next Door		Geraldo at Large	Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular	This Week in the Pentagon	Quick Fix Meals		
10:30	Sports	Sabrina's Secret Life		Huckabee	A Capitol Fourth	Recon Revisited	Iron Chef America Chefs compete.	SportsCenter	
11:00		Growing Pains		FOX Report		Fit For Duty	Star Trek: Voyager "The Disease"	SportsCenter	Sports
11:30		The Cosby Show		Newsroom	Thunder Over Louisville 2009	Battleground	Heroes "Distractions"	Sports	
12:00		Nick News Special Edition		Glenn Beck		Army Newswatch	Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular		
12:30		Drake & Josh		Newsroom	The Chris Matthews Show	The Grill Sergeants	The King of Queens		
13:00	McLaughlin Group	Thunder Over Louisville 2009		This Week in the Pentagon	ESPNews	Sun City Soldier	Everybody Loves Raymond		
13:30	ESPNNews			All Hands TV	20/20	Recon	Eli Stone "Flight Path"		
14:00	Washington Week in Review			Today	Kitchen Nightmares Restaurant lacking management.	Recon Revisited	Mad Men "New Amsterdam" Don is alienated.		
14:30	House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	SpongeBob SquarePants		CBS News Sunday Morning	Headline News	Around the Services	Seinfeld	Outside the Lines	Sports
15:00	Entertainers	Hip Hop Kidz		Face the Nation	Saturday Night Live	Around the Services	Friends (Part 1 of 2)	Sports Reporters	
15:30						Around the Services	Law & Order "Flight"	Sports	Sports
16:00	In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	SpongeBob SquarePants							
16:30	T.D. Jakes	SpongeBob SquarePants							
17:00	Love Worth Finding	Be the Creature "Komodo Dragon"							
17:30	The Pure Life								
18:00	Grand Ole Opry Live	America's Funniest Home Videos							
18:30									
19:00	MotorWeek	So You Think You Can Dance							
19:30	At the Movies								
20:00	Digging for the Truth "The Vikings: Voyage to America"	Smallville "Bride"							
20:30									
21:00	Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular	90210 "Okaeri, Donnal"							
21:30									
22:00	A Capitol Fourth	Touched by an Angel "Fool for Love"							
22:30									
23:00		7th Heaven "Faith, Hope and the Bottom Line"							
23:30	Thunder Over Louisville 2009								

News

Sports

Weather

MIDDLE EAST HEADLINES

Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in

SCOREBOARD

Pacific scoreboard for the April 8 edition

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YOUR MONEY

Student borrowers get some relief

New program will allow college graduates to cap repayments

By NICK PERRY
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Thousands of college graduates across the country will be able to get some relief from their student loan bills under a new federal program that went into effect July 1.

The Income Based Repayment program allows graduates to cap their monthly loan repayments at 15 percent of their total income. The program will be particularly helpful to new graduates who have big loans and are entering a tough job market. For those with low incomes or children, required repayments are less — and in some cases, nothing at all.

The program encompasses federal loans that account for about two-thirds of all student debt. Private loans taken out by students and federal loans taken out by parents do not qualify. If students are already in default on their loans, they won't qualify for the program, either.

Nationally, about 60 percent of students who earn a bachelor's degree borrow at least some money, according to the College Board. They graduate with an average \$23,000 in loans. On a 10-year loan, that equates to monthly payments of about \$260. For graduate students, the loans are much bigger — at the University of Washington, for instance, medical students who borrow end up owing an average of \$106,000.

Under the new program, a graduate earning \$30,000 a year would be required to pay a maximum of \$172 a month toward student

loans. For someone earning \$40,000 a year, the payment would rise to \$297 a month. For someone earning \$50,000, it would be \$422 a month.

One significant downside of the new program is that some students may end up paying more over time.

That's because by paying

less each month, they will extend the life of their loan, adding to the total interest payments. And while unpaid interest is written off for the first three years, after that, in many cases, it's added to the loan balance.

The good news is that, under the new program, anyone who makes their required minimum payments for 25 years will have any remaining loan balance written off. That can be reduced to 10 years for those working in public

service jobs — including state or federal employees, nonprofit workers and public health workers.

The program is open to people who have existing loans as well as new graduates. To apply, people need to contact their lender.

"Especially in this economy, we need to give students options to repay their loans that don't break the bank," said Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who supported the provision as part of the 2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act. "By allowing income-based loan repayments we will give students a pathway to success before they are buried in debt."



SW PARRA/MCT

Look at alternatives before settling with your lender

By CANDICE CHOI
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pay a fraction of what you owe, walk away debt-free.

If the premise of credit card debt settlement sounds too good to be true, that's because it is.

Debt settlement is when a cardholder agrees to pay a portion of a balance in exchange for the remainder of the debt being forgiven. The benefit for card companies is that they salvage at least part of a debt that otherwise could go uncollected.

The practice is gaining attention, in large part because of the explosion of firms promising to whittle down credit card balances. Some claim they can lower balances by as much as 70 percent — for a big fee, of course. The other catch is that the firms often don't deliver what they promise, and can leave you in worse financial straits. And they don't mention the black mark a debt settlement leaves on a credit report.

While debt settlement is a necessary move in some scenarios, there are alternatives and repercussions to consider. Here are some questions and answers about how it works.

Q: How do I know if I'm even

eligible?

A: Explain your situation to your credit card company. You might get a settlement if you can show you're in serious financial distress.

Debt settlement is nothing new, but banks are agreeing to them more readily now to cash in on whatever they can if they suspect the borrower is unlikely to pay.

Note that you can work out a debt settlement directly with your lender. There's no need to enlist — or pay — a debt settlement firm.

Q: How do I determine if I should pursue a settlement?

A: Sit down with a credit counselor to sort out your finances. You might find you can pay off the debt and avoid a settlement with some tweaks to your budget.

There are hundreds of nonprofit groups that offer credit counseling, and consultations are usually free. You can search for a counselor in your area on the Web sites of either the National Foundation for Credit Counseling or the Association of Independent Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies.

Q: If I do pursue debt settlement, how does it work?

A: The terms of the settlement will

vary depending on the size of your debt, your financial circumstances and your credit card company.

To determine the amount of the settlement, a credit card company might ask about your income, assets and other debts. A credit report will tell them if you have other collections.

Q: What is the impact of a debt settlement on my credit profile?

A: Very damaging. A debt settlement stays on your credit report for seven years and can significantly reduce your credit score.

The lower your credit score already is, naturally, the less severe the impact.

Q: Are there any other options besides a settlement?

A: Yes. Before you ask for a settlement, ask your lender if the terms of your loan can be modified. This might include a lower interest rate, the elimination of fees or a reduction on the monthly payment.

Banks aren't publicizing it, but they've gotten more flexible as a result of the recession.

"We evaluate the individual customer situation. Based on that, we propose a customized solution," said Betty Riess, a spokeswoman for Bank of America.



RICK NEASE/MCT

If promises to slice your credit card debt in half seem too good to be true, it's because they are. Troubled borrowers can work out a debt settlement with their lenders without going to a third-party firm.

YOUR MONEY

Keep after your lender when refinancing loan

Dear Liz: I'm in a potentially bad situation with my home equity line of credit. I'm trying to refinance my primary mortgage and would save nearly \$150 a month. But the HELOC lender is dragging its feet on agreeing to a subordination. If the lender doesn't agree, I lose the deal. I'm wondering why the lender does not believe it to be in its interest to help when I am trying to improve my financial situation. Can you give me some insight into the line of thinking here?

Answer: Unfortunately, many would-be refinancers are in your uncomfortable position. They have a second mortgage, such as a home equity line of credit, on their property. These loans are known as "seconds" because the lender is in second position to be paid off when the home is sold, after the primary lender has been paid.

For a refinance to proceed, these HELOC lenders have to agree once again to be subordinated into second position. Some lenders balk because they don't

believe their borrowers have sufficient equity to cover both loans.

But a bigger problem seems to be lack of staff and lack of priority. Lenders are so busy trying to meet the demand for refinancing that other concerns, including subordination, often fall to the bottom of their to-do list.

That means you have to be extremely vigilant if you don't want your refinance deal to fall apart. Call your new lender and your HELOC lender every few days to track the progress of your subordination. If there are problems or missing paperwork, promptly address those issues.

Dear Liz: I'm curious about your recent answer to the folks asking about a short sale. In it, you said, "Short sales ... typically harm credit scores as much as foreclosures do." As a real estate professional, I am under a different impression.

Certainly, in financial distress, one's credit score takes a beating, but I don't believe there is a code or classification for short sales on credit reports. We gener-

ally encourage short sales when possible, as we feel short sales allow debtors to get back on their feet quicker. I'd appreciate other data if you have it, as this would change how I educate clients. I do think we may see some changes in the future. As the number of short sales increases, we may see some way to note such transactions on credit reports.

Answer: The information about how credit scores are affected by short sales comes directly from FICO, the company formerly known as Fair Isaac Corp., which created the leading credit scoring formula.

You're right that the formula has no specific code for a short sale, which is when the lender agrees to accept the proceeds of a home sale as full payment of a mortgage, forgiving whatever additional balance is owed. But most lenders report short sales as a debt settlement, which has a strongly negative effect on credit scores.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of the book "Your Credit Score: Your Money and What's at Stake." Questions for possible inclusion in her column may be sent to 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via the "Contact Liz" form at www.asklizweston.com. Distributed by No More Red Inc.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston



JOHN AMIS/AP

Colin Daymude, who only recently received his state income tax refund after a six-month wait, sits in his home in Dacula, Ga. Budget cuts and falling revenues have forced many states to delay income tax returns for months, leaving taxpayers longing for millions of dollars of their money.

Much-needed tax refunds delayed from Ga. to Calif.

BY GREG BLUESTEIN
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Colin Daymude was out of work last year after his business failed and eagerly filed his taxes in mid-January, figuring he'd get his refund sooner. He was wrong.

It took the 44-year-old entrepreneur more than six months to get his \$1,300 check — money that he needed to pay living expenses while he worked a few side gigs.

Tax day — April 15 — has long since come and gone, but sharp budget cuts and falling revenues have forced many states to delay income tax returns for months — and left taxpayers longing for their money.

"I'm just trying to get my money back," said a frustrated Daymude. "It's my money anyways."

Some states say plummeting tax collections drove them to hold on to the money so they can make ends meet. Others complain of not being able to keep up because the economic downturn has forced staffing cuts in revenue departments.

But critics worry governments are withholding funds that rightly belong to taxpayers when they need the extra cash the most. And some of the tardy states are fast approaching a stiff deadline of their own: The longer they wait, the more likely they'll have to pony up interest from thinning state coffers.

That prospect could soon become a reality in Georgia and Alabama, where tax officials are racing to beat a mid-July deadline to send hundreds of thousands of

tax refunds or risk racking up millions of dollars in interest.

"I know some of the taxpayers are wondering if the state is going to pay the refund," said Carla Snellgrove of the Department of Revenue in Alabama, where more than 120,000 taxpayers are waiting for at least \$63 million in income tax refunds.

"You talk with them and assure them they'll get the refund, it's just much slower this year," she said. "And if we don't meet the July 15 deadline, then the state will pay interest — that provides them some assurance."

California, which faces a deficit that could top \$24.3 billion, may have to issue about \$3 billion worth of promissory notes this month to state contractors, college students and taxpayers owed refunds unless there is a budget-balancing agreement.

Other states have had to be a bit more inventive.

Missouri, which delayed issuing income tax refunds earlier this year, ultimately used \$250 million of federal economic stimulus money to pay hundreds of thousands of refunds.

Meanwhile, analysts say the delays essentially rob the poor of what had become an extra paycheck.

"Low-income families rely on that money getting reimbursed to them in the spring," said Mike Herald, a lobbyist for the Western Center on Law and Poverty, a Los Angeles-based advocacy group for the poor. "They pay bills with that money, they buy furniture — a lot of people rely on that income."

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week		Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk
High	Low						
11,924.19	6,469.95	Dow Jones Industrials	8,280.74	-223.32	-2.63	-5.65	-26.64
5,293.41	2,134.21	Dow Jones Transportation	3,158.74	-119.69	-3.65	-10.70	-32.49
528.07	288.66	Dow Jones Utilities	350.69	-10.96	-3.03	-5.41	-31.95
8,945.54	4,181.75	NYSE Composite	5,775.24	-178.77	-3.00	+3.32	-31.91
2,257.28	1,130.47	Amex Index	1,567.05	-26.32	-1.65	+12.13	-27.49
2,473.20	1,265.52	Nasdaq Composite	1,796.52	-49.20	-2.67	+13.92	-19.99
1,335.63	666.79	S&P 500	896.42	-26.91	-2.91	-7.76	-29.02
861.19	397.87	S&P MidCap	565.03	-19.21	-3.29	+4.97	-28.19
13,634.46	6,772.29	Wilshire 5000	9,206.29	-275.30	-2.90	+1.31	-28.16
764.38	342.59	Russell 2000	497.21	-20.25	-3.91	-4.45	-25.32

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)					MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)					MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Vol	00's	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	00's	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	00's	Last	Chg
BkofAm	2031495	12.64	-41		PSCrudeOil	81600	4.13	-19		PwShs QQQ	942744	35.60	-80	
SPDR	1683331	89.81	-2.52		Hemishprx	30913	2.54	-08		Microsft	640323	23.37	-21	
DirFinBul	1360482	8.34	-83		AlaStMac	28502	9.74	-05		Intc	7211	6.72	-32	
DirFinBear	1326813	5.13	+42		NthgrM g	27512	2.20	+03		ETrade	423507	1.31	-04	
Citigrp	1114956	2.88	-09		EldorId g	25410	9.25	+08		Cisco	14242	18.50	-30	
SPDR Fnd	860242	11.47	-41		BWP Acq un	19882	6.68	-03		Idm Intc	395514	12.97	-42	
FordM	724834	5.89	-02		GranTrra g	17754	3.41	-03		ApplMac	288053	11.73	--	
GenElec	694540	11.46	-32		Taseko	11232	1.71	-06		Oracle	26110	12.94	-14	
US NGSSf	584809	13.11	-57		KodiakO g	10814	1.00	-07		EvrgrSrt	250704	2.39	+24	
ISHMkt5	576345	31.92	-90		GoldStr g	10691	2.08	-02		NwsCpa	181821	8.60	-67	

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)					MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg		Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	
PSCrudeOil	81600	4.13	-19		PwSns QQQ	94374	35.60	-80	
Hemishprx	30913	2.54	-08		Microsoft	64003	23.37	-67	
AlaStMac	28502	9.74	-05		Intel	53629	16.72	-02	
NthgrM g	27512	2.20	+03		Etrade	423507	1.31	-00	
EldorId g	25410	9.25	+08		Citico	404422	1.80	-30	
BWP Acq un	19882	6.68	-03		Dell Inc	395514	12.97	-42	
GranTrra g	17754	3.41	-03		ApplMktg	288053	11.23	--	
Taseko	11232	1.71	-06		Amgen	250704	2.39	-24	
KodiakO g	10814	1.00	-07		EvrgsSr	250704	2.39	-24	
GoldStr g	10691	2.08	-02		NwscPcpA	18821	6.26	+57	

NASDAQ

ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)		
Vol (00)	Last	Chg
942744	35.60	-80
640333	23.37	-67
536931	16.72	-32
423507	1.31	-04
404422	18.50	-30
395514	12.97	-42
288053	11.13	...
266291	21.04	-70
250704	2.39	+24
188121	8.60	-67

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (July 6)	\$1.4451
Dollar buys (July 6)	€ 0.6958
British pound (July 6)	\$1.68
Japanese yen (July 6)	¥ 94.00
South Korean won (July 6)	₩ 1,234.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6328
Canada (Dollar)	1.1582
China (Yuan)	6.8335
Denmark (Krone)	5.3191
Egypt (Pound)	5.5900
Euro	\$1.4006/0.7140
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7500
Hungary (Forint)	194.74
Israel (Shekel)	3.8787
Japan (Yen)	96.02
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2873
Norway (Krone)	6.4150
Philippines (Peso)	48.03
Poland (Zloty)	3.10
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4528
South Korea (Won)	1,277.40
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0864
Thailand (Baht)	34.09
Turkey (New Lira)	1.5341
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS						
Name	Div	PE	Last	YTD Chg %Chg		
Alliant Technosystem	...	18	80.54	-2.37	-6.1	
Boeing	1.68	14	40.83	-1.40	-4.3	
Computer Sciences	...	6	43.80	...	+24.6	
General Dynamics	1.52	9	53.62	-2.06	-6.9	
General Electric	...	7	11.46	-32	-29.3	
Halliburton	...	36	13.98	-1.32	+6.6	
Harris Corp.	...	80	12.85	-1.65	-20.6	
Allied Signal	1.21	9	30.80	-1.06	-6.2	
L-3 Communications	1.40	9	65.75	-2.88	-10.9	
Lockheed Martin	2.28	10	79.52	-1.12	-5.4	
Northrop	1.72	...	44.44	-1.65	-1.3	
Raytheon	1.24	10	43.01	-1.57	-15.7	
Rockwell Intl.	1.16	10	31.54	-98	-2.2	
Texas Instruments	...	42	21.30	-30	+37.2	
United Technologies	...	08	7	9.33	-7.0	
United Technologies	1.54	11	50.24	-2.04	-6.3	

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS						
Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.			
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	55.55	+33	+13.3			
Fidelity Spartan: EqtIovkn	32.68	+04	+3.2			
Fidelity Invest: US8I	10.85	+01	+2.0			
Fidelity Invest: Ovrssea	26.62	+01	+0.6			
Fidelity Growth: Grdc	13.34	+03	+1.5			
Fidelity Invest: AMg50	12.11	+01	+1.2			
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	9.55	-02	-0.9			
Putnam Funds A: GRn6p	1.77	+07	+5.0			
Act Investments A: Char1pA	22.51	+02	+1.2			
AIM Investments A: Consp	12.21	+02	+1.7			
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	23.23	+01	+0.5			
DWS Invest S: Grlncls	11.65	+03	+7.2			
Fidelity Advisor T: EgnT	17.06	+01	+1.1			
Fidelity Advisor T: GroppT	22.18	+10	+15.0			
DWS Invest S: Intl Fds	37.09	+09	+10.5			
DWS Europe: Eur Fds	28.68	+08	+10.0			

Key Mutual Funds

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	55.55	+33	+13.5
Fidelity Spartan: EqlbInv	32.68	+04	+3.2
Fidelity Invest: US8l	10.85	+01	+2.6
Fidelity Invest: Oversea	26.62	+01	+6.1
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	13.34	-03	+1.5
Fidelity Invest: AMgr50	12.11	+01	+12.4
AIM Century Inv: Ultra	15.85	-02	+9.7
Putnam Funds A: GrnA p	9.77	...	+5.0
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.51	+02	+7.8
AIM Investments A: Const p	17.29	+02	+2.7
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	23.23	+01	+14.5
DWS Invest: S: GroIncS	11.65	-03	+7.2
Fidelity Advisor T: EdnT	17.06	-01	+1.1
Fidelity Advisor T: GroOpT	22.19	+10	+16.5
DWS Invest: S: Intl Fds	37.08	+09	+0.7
Putnam Funds A: GblEtp p	6.86	-01	+7.7
Lord Abbett A: DevGIA p	12.96	+18	+22.1
Fidelity Advisor T: OrvseAT	13.93	+01	+3.7
DWS Invest: S: CorpInc	9.87	+01	+4.3

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close	
Gold	\$930.70
Silver	\$13.393

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.16
30-year bond	4.33
Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press	

Stuck Mars rover forces Earthly solution

By JOHN JOHNSON JR.
Los Angeles Times

If you're NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, what do you do when your vehicle is dug into the sand of Mars and the nearest auto club is 180 million miles away?

You bring Mars down to Earth. In May, the Mars rover Spirit became embedded in a patch of fluffy Martian soil, the worst such incident in the more than five years that Spirit and its twin, Opportunity, have been exploring Mars' equatorial region.

Scientists in a Pasadena, Calif., laboratory replicated the situa-

tion on Mars in a 30-foot-square work room, mixing 5,400 pounds of diatomaceous earth and clay to produce a powdery mixture the color of creme brulee and as fluffy and light as flour. Now comes trying to free the Earth Rover to figure out what series of maneuvers might work on Mars.

The first technique is to ask the rover to inch backward out of the fluffy sand patch onto surer ground nearby.

"We think terrain we can drive on is just a few feet away," Rover project manager John Callas said.

Getting embedded has yielded some surprising science, Callas said. By digging so deeply into the soil in one spot, the rover has turned up evidence of ferric sulfate, calcium sulfate and silica, which Callas said could be evidence that snow or ice was present at Mars' equatorial regions in the fairly recent past. These days, water ice on the surface is believed to be only at the Martian poles. This discovery is more proof that, where the rovers are concerned, "when Mars hands us lemons we make lemonade," he said.



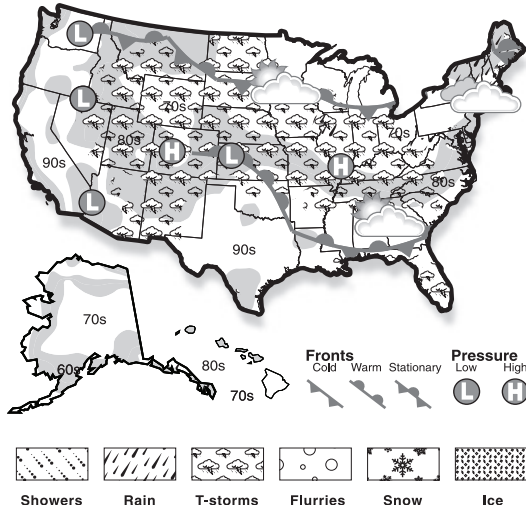
AP

One of the two Mars rovers in November 2004.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Saturday, July 4



Scattered Showers Across Country's Midsection

Only few areas of organized precipitation is expected. Scattered thunderstorms are likely in the midsection of the country. Mild conditions are expected in the West.

Weather Underground • AP

Friday's global temperatures

City Hi Lo Weather	La Paz 58 23 clr
Amsterdam 83 64 clr	Lima 68 64 cdy
Athens 87 64 clr	Lisbon 84 68 pc
Auckland 55 39 rn	London 87 58 clr
Baghdad 111 89 pc	Madrid 96 66 clr
Basra 116 88 pc	Managua 89 75 pc
Bahrain 100 89 clr	Manila 86 78 pc
Bangkok 90 77 rn	Mecca 113 91 clr
Barbados 88 80 rn	Melbourne 53 45 rn
Barcelona 82 72 clr	Mexico City 73 57 rn
Beijing 96 69 clr	Montevideo 57 38 pc
Beirut 90 74 clr	Montreal 75 64 rn
Belgrade 81 61 rn	Moscow 75 55 rn
Berlin 82 64 rn	Nairobi 69 49 pc
Bermuda 81 76 rn	Nassau 91 78 pc
Bogota 64 48 rn	New Delhi 93 77 rn
Brasilia 79 55 clr	Nice 81 70 clr
Brisbane 73 55 clr	Osaka 80 71 rn
Brussels 87 62 clr	Oslo 86 59 rn
Bucharest 77 60 rn	Panama 85 77 rn
Budapest 84 62 rn	Paris 87 62 rn
Buenos Aires 62 45 clr	Perth 63 36 pc
Cairo 97 79 clr	Prague 79 61 clr
Calgary 69 43 rn	Rio de Janeiro 80 68 rn
Caracas 91 79 clr	Rome 84 66 rn
Colombo 86 80 pc	San Jose 84 65 rn
Copenhagen 79 66 clr	San Juan 91 79 clr
Dahran 116 86 clr	San Salvador 86 69 rn
Dhaka 83 79 rn	Santiago 63 45 pc
Dili 93 69 clr	Sao Paulo 62 58 rn
Dubai 115 86 clr	Sapporo 71 60 rn
Dublin 66 58 rn	Seoul 75 68 rn
Frankfurt 87 64 rn	Singapore 90 77 rn
Geneva 84 58 clr	Sofia 78 56 pc
Guatemala 66 32 rn	Stockholm 86 59 clr
Hanoi 98 82 pc	Sydney 66 49 pc
Harare 63 43 rn	Taipei 86 77 rn
Havana 91 73 clr	Tegucigalpa 83 64 pc
Helsinki 82 60 pc	Tehran 92 71 clr
Hong Kong 91 84 rn	Tel Aviv 92 73 clr
Islamabad 95 75 pc	Tokyo 73 68 rn
Istanbul 86 72 clr	Turin 84 61 rn
Jakarta 89 75 pc	Toronto 73 64 rn
Jerusalem 92 73 clr	Tunis 92 69 clr
Johannesburg 56 32 clr	Valletta 85 67 clr
Kabul 86 62 clr	Vancouver 69 55 clr
Kiev 82 57 clr	Vienna 84 61 pc
Kuala Lumpur 90 75 rn	Warsaw 81 65 rn
Kuwait 116 91 clr	Zurich 83 57 clr

SUNDAY'S FORECAST



Air Force Weather/www.afweather.af.mil

Friday's U.S. temperatures

City Hi Lo Precip Weather	Casper 83 60 .25 rn	Erie 69 62 .36 cdy	Jacksonville 95 70 cdy	Montgomery 97 67 clr	Richmond 87 61 cdy	Spokane 88 57 clr
Abilene, Tex. 97 74 clr	Charleston, S.C. 95 73 clr	Eugene 93 53 clr	Juneau 65 45 clr	Nashville 83 63 clr	Roanoke 78 61 cdy	Springfield, Ill. 78 57 cdy
Akron, Ohio 68 60 .05 cdy	Charleston, W.Va. 69 63 .01 cdy	Evansville 77 59 cdy	Kansas City 86 68 cdy	New Orleans 98 77 cdy	Rochester 71 60 .18 cdy	Springfield, Mo. 85 64 cdy
Albany, N.Y. 69 60 .40 rn	Charlotte, N.C. 88 63 .16 clr	Fairbanks 81 56 cdy	Key West 90 83 cdy	New York City 76 65 45 rn	Rockford 72 56 cdy	Syracuse 71 60 .06 cdy
Albuquerque 93 65 .13 cdy	Chattanooga 91 64 cdy	Fargo 84 62 cdy	Knoxville 83 61 cdy	Newark 79 65 .16 rn	Sacramento 92 58 clr	Tallahassee 98 72 .68 cdy
Allentown, Pa. 79 62 cdy	Cheyenne 76 57 cdy	Flagstaff 76 51 .01 cdy	Lake Charles 99 76 cdy	Norfolk, Va. 88 71 cdy	St. Louis 84 64 cdy	Tampa 87 78 .34 rn
Amarillo 93 68 cdy	Chicago 73 65 cdy	Flint 65 58 cdy	Lansing 65 56 cdy	North Platte 84 65 .02 cdy	St. Petersburg 86 76 .14 rn	Toledo 69 58 cdy
Anchorage 61 47 cdy	Cincinnati 70 60 cdy	Fort Smith 94 72 clr	Las Vegas 94 81 cdy	Oklahoma City 97 72 clr	St. Thomas 88 79 cdy	Topeka 83 67 .36 rn
Asheville 82 58 clr	Cleveland 69 62 .10 cdy	Fort Wayne 72 59 cdy	Lexington 72 61 cdy	Omaha 87 65 rn	Salem, Ore. 92 56 clr	Tucson 99 77 .01 cdy
Atlanta 90 68 clr	Colorado Springs 83 59 .26 cdy	Fresno 101 70 clr	Lincoln 87 67 rn	Orlando 89 74 cdy	Salt Lake City 87 63 .05 cdy	Tulsa 95 73 clr
Atlantic City 83 65 cdy	Columbia, S.C. 96 70 clr	Goodland 87 64 .01 cdy	Little Rock 92 70 cdy	Paducah 84 61 clr	San Angelo 98 72 clr	Tupelo 92 66 cdy
Austin 104 71 cdy	Columbus, Ga. 95 71 clr	Grand Junction 85 63 .04 cdy	Los Angeles 78 61 clr	Pendleton 93 62 clr	San Antonio 101 76 cdy	Waco 103 77 clr
Baltimore 81 59 cdy	Columbus, Ohio 71 62 .01 cdy	Grand Rapids 67 61 cdy	Louisville 71 62 cdy	Peoria 75 58 cdy	San Diego 72 64 cdy	Washington, D.C. 80 64 .06 cdy
Baton Rouge 102 75 cdy	Concord, N.H. 62 57 1.43 cdy	Great Falls 81 56 cdy	Lubbock 94 71 cdy	Philadelphia 83 66 cdy	San Francisco 71 57 cdy	W. Palm Beach 91 74 .09 rn
Billings 83 54 cdy	Corpus Christi 98 77 cdy	Green Bay 70 59 cdy	Macon 96 65 .03 clr	Phoenix 103 87 .01 cdy	San Jose 80 58 cdy	Wichita 90 72 cdy
Birmingham 93 65 clr	Dallas-Ft. Worth 102 79 clr	Greensboro, N.C. 86 61 clr	Madison 70 60 cdy	Pittsburgh 67 59 .14 cdy	San Juan, P.R. 81 80 cdy	Wichita Falls 102 72 clr
Bismarck 84 61 cdy	Daytona Beach 93 77 .03 cdy	Harrisburg 80 63 .25 cdy	Medford 100 65 cdy	Pocatello 86 56 .94 cdy	Santa Fe 93 66 cdy	Wilkes-Barre 78 59 .21 rn
Boise 93 66 cdy	Daytona Beach 93 77 .03 cdy	Hartford Spfld 74 61 .42 rn	Memphis 91 73 cdy	Portland, Maine 59 57 1.20 cdy	St. Ste Marie 62 50 cdy	Wilmington, Del. m m mm cdy
Boston 62 59 rn	Denver 79 62 cdy	Helena 84 55 cdy	Miami Beach 90 75 .07 rn	Portland, Ore. 96 62 .01 clr	Savannah 96 70 clr	Yakima 93 54 clr
Bridgeport 76 65 cdy	Des Moines 84 65 cdy	Honolulu 89 76 .24 cdy	Midland-Odessa 95 73 cdy	Providence 74 63 .22 rn	Seattle 83 58 clr	Youngstown 67 60 .22 cdy
Brownsville 91 78 .15 cdy	Detroit 68 60 .02 cdy	Houston 101 75 clr	Milwaukee 71 63 cdy	Pueblo 92 64 cdy	Shreveport 102 75 cdy	
Buffalo 69 60 .15 cdy	Duluth 67 50 cdy	Huntsville 91 65 clr	Mpls-St Paul 80 62 cdy	Raleigh-Durham 92 65 .02 clr	Sioux City 88 61 rn	
Burlington, Vt. 74 64 .01 rn	El Paso 93 75 cdy	Indianapolis 73 61 cdy	Missoula 90 52 clr	Rapid City 81 60 .01 rn	Sioux Falls 84 60 rn	
Caribou, Maine 73 62 .08 rn	Elkins 66 58 .12 cdy	Jackson, Miss. 99 71 clr	Mobile 101 72 .54 cdy	Reno 91 63 cdy	South Bend 68 62 cdy	



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Autos for Sale 141

Atsugi - 1989 Nissan 180SX gray, Turbo CA. JCI expires April 1, 2010, the car runs good, does have some issues, asking \$1500, email perry327263@att.net or call 08039161608.

Atsugi - 2002 Cadillac Seville SLS 4.6L (4,565 cc) Northstar V-8 engine, Leather, all Power, 6 disc CD changer, RSD \$7,500.00 obo 08058695453 Ivan.

Sasebo - 1997 Nissan Lucina Suny Van 4-door sunroof power windows automatic 108,000 km JCI Nov 2010 email for pictures q u e s t i o n s jonlessbrandon@gmail.com or call 252-8131, 0803467-7311

SHAZAMA - 1991 Champagne colored Nissan Bluebird, 117,000 km/72000 mi. Runs Well. Maintained. Very reliable. Great A/C, heat, older model GPS, but works well. All fees paid. JCI due Oct. 09. Asking \$500.00. Available Mid-July. Call Rich 267-6620 / 080-6626-9248.

Autos for Sale 141

SHAZAMA - 1994 Black Nissan Largo Van. (2nd owner/1st was Japanese owner). Seats 7. Moon roof. Several roof windows. Keyless entry (clicker). The back seats fold up and away for great storage, cargo or camping (can fit motorcycles, large stroller, and I used it to deliver my furniture and save fees). First row swivels for easy movement in van. Some minor things need attention (i.e. rear wiper blade replacement), but do not affect running or reliability of vehicle. Good leg room. New radiator. 82,000km/ 51000mi. Reliable. Runs well. Maintained. All fees paid including recycle fee. JCI due July 2010. Body in great shape. No accidents. Available mid-July. Asking 1650.00. Call Dana 267-6620

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Nissan Cima runs great 18" Chrome Rims PCSing soon! JCI good until Aug 2010! Asking \$1000 Call Gainey 080-3713-9713 gainey98@msn.com

Announcements 040



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Autos for Sale 141

Yokosuka - 00 Jaguar S-type. Everything is current until 2011. Very well maintained. Many custom parts. Car is US spec so you can take with you when you PCS. \$9,000/OBO call Eddie at 0 8 0 5 5 4 0 2 7 5 2 o r mrjamaica84@yahoo.com for pics/details

Yokosuka - 1995 Nissan Skyline GTS25t 4door, 70,000kms, new timing belt and gtr N1 water-pump, 5 speed conversion! ORC twin plate clutch. Not too stiff. Comes with Nismo titanium catback exhaust and also a custom titanium catless exhaust for track purposes. DMAX carbon fiber hood, HID low beams 6000k legal, HKS evc3 boost controller (boost kept at 6.5 bar L7.5 H currently) FMIC, 1.5way lift, Factory ECU reflashed by TM Factory for an automatic, so works in auto or manual. Lots of other parts, pictures available if wanted. \$4500 obo. Serious offers only. Like to see this go to a good driver. Buyer may get some extra goodies thrown in for free that I didn't have time to install. Call Chuck at 090 3692 4470

Yokota, Japan - '96 Honda Legend Very clean, Japanese navigation system/TV. JCI until April 2010, asking \$2000 Call 901-273-8893 or email robnschanjan@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1990 Fairlady z JCI 8/09 3500 firm I have had this car for 6 months and I am selling it to buy an engagement. The car is a lot of fun. Twin turbo w/ turbo timer rebuilt engine, only 20000 kilometers on it. Good A/C and heat. Radio with aux port. JCI until Aug 2009 Asking \$3500 Call 16469579373 or email john_nicola@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1995 Honda Civic, 4-door, good shape, runs well. Asking \$500. Call 22 5 5 0 0 2 o r e m a i l goldfalcon3@aol.com

Yokota, Japan - 1999 Honda Odyssey JCI good until Jan 2011, Great A/C and Heater, CD Player, Power windows and doors, Great Condition, 72646 Kilometers. Remote power locks, Very Clean (Owners are non-smokers!) Must sell owner is PCSing! Asking \$3000 OBO Call 08035868753 or email g.i.frog@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - '96 Honda Legend Very clean, Japanese navigation system/TV. JCI until April 2010, asking \$2000 Call 901-273-8893 or email robnschanjan@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - "2 YRS JCI" 1996 4 DR Toyota Corolla Just JCI'd Silver, Auto Trans, Power windows/locks, sun-roof, moon-roof, AC/Heat front & rear, new tires (x4), Captain chairs/swivel seats, cool/hot drink box, Sunwer sensor, AM/FM/cassette player JCI until June 2010 Asking \$2100 OBO Call Anne Counour 080-3241-4347

Yokota, Japan - 91 Toyota Estima Very reliable! Great van for family trips around Japan, cool/hot drink box with icemaker, captain chairs - swivel for easy conversation, power windows/locks, sunroof, moon-roof, AC/heat front & rear, new tires (4 xs), sonar sensor, AM/FM cassette JCI until June 10 Asking \$2100 OBO Call now 623-734-9625

Yokota, Japan - 93 Skyline Turbo only 45000 km JCI 2011! You didn't read it wrong! Very clean, minor dents and scratches, smooth running & well maintained! 2dr cold A/C/pw/plps good tires! JCI paid! Road tax paid! I would buy it if I didn't already have it! JCI until March 2011 asking \$3500 OBO call 090-98174-006 or email smithvee@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 97 Toyota Chaser Tourer V (5-speed) this vehicle is a great Project car. I have started but time has run out to finish the last minor things. The motor was just rebuilt by a Shop in Tokyo name Rasty Engine. IJZ-GTE (2.5L Single Turbo, VVTi) 5-Speed Manual Transmission (Factory) Rasty High Flow Turbine 550cc Fuel Injector Walbro 255 Fuel Pump HKS F-CON ECU-Tuned by Rasty Greddy Intercooler Fully Adjustable Suspension and many more. Please E-mail me for more details Too many to list. JCI until June 2010 asking \$5500 Call 080-4085-2156 need to sell ASAP

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - For sale rav4 Toyota - \$1,500.00 1994 Toyota RAV4 2 DR Automatic Trans-mission. Runs Great A/C and Heat AM / FM / CD Player Road Tax/JCI good until 2010 Rear seats folds away for groceries. Great on gas, Recent maintenance. New brake pads, new wiper blades, new tires, and brand new key cylinder, asking \$1500 if interested, call Jett on cell phone 080-3362-7604 or 1-323-338-7570 to arrange viewing or test drive

Yokota, Japan - Honda Odyssey For Sale in good Condition, JCI until July 2010 Call 080 3390 5 9 6 0 o r e m a i l jennybg908@gmail.com

Announcements 040

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Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 99 Honda Integra In Great condition For Sale 1999 Honda (Acura) Integra Silver exterior color Has Black interior very clean Low miles (\$2000) Back windows are Tinted JCI Good Till Dec 2010 Excellent Gas mileage (36 km per gallon) \$2300 Or Best Offer Price negotiable so Call or email me and make me an offer Call cell 08051981568 or home 512-275-4863

Yokota, Japan - Cheapest fully Loaded Nissan Brougham - Just take only 1 previous owner, clean body and interior, keyless lock, hydraulic seats, less than 50k miles, pearl white with gray upholstery interior, just changed all 4 sets of tires, 17inch chrome wheels. JCI dual din 7.5inch DVD player with iPod connectivity also plays SD card media, 1200 watt JVC subwoofer. Speaker system is original gold plated Kenwood high end speakers. Road tax paid. I am only selling this car because I need a car for a bigger family. Price is negotiable, includes over \$1200 worth of stereo equipment, currently parked at the lemon lot, call me and let's go for test drive 080-1793-3079. JCI until June 2010 asking \$3200 OBO call 080-4082-9906 or email chrisanba@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - For sale rav4 Toyota - \$1,500.00 1994 Toyota RAV4 2 DR Automatic Trans-mission. Runs Great A/C and Heat AM / FM / CD Player Road Tax/JCI good until 2010 Rear seats folds away for groceries. Great on gas, Recent maintenance. New brake pads, new wiper blades, new tires, and brand new key cylinder, asking \$1500 if interested, call Jett on cell phone 080-3362-7604 or 1-323-338-7570 to arrange viewing or test drive

Yokota, Japan - Honda Odyssey For Sale in good Condition, JCI until July 2010 Call 080 3390 5 9 6 0 o r e m a i l jennybg908@gmail.com

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - Honda Civic JCI Mar 2011 Great car excellent condition, A/C works great, Keyless entry, Low miles Great on gas. JCI expire Mar. 2011asking \$1500 Call 1-623-734-9619

Yokota, Japan - Honda Legend for sale! Heated seats, leather interior, brand new brakes and good A/C. call for more info. JCI until Aug. 09 asking \$650 OBO Call 614-358-4850 or email justmekate1@gmail.com

Zama - 1994 Nissan Skyline, charcoal color, 53,000 KM, new battery last inspection, remote keyless entry, JCI good until Aug 09, road tax paid, good condition, includes iPod FM transmitter, available July 15th, \$500. Contact Suzanne 267-6180, 080-3098-5767, or email sandalbook@hotmail.com.

Zama - 1994 silver Mazda Bongo Brawny van for sale. JCI good til May 2010. Road tax paid. Seats 9 people. New battery and two new tires. Nice interior. Great for shopping, kids, pets, camping and more. Seats carousel around, fold down, and easy to take out. \$1300 or best offer. 042-869-6199, DSN 267-6199

Zama - 1994, Toyota Estima Van, maroon, 143,000K, sunroof, great A/C, Seats 8, great family van for long road trips, road tax paid until May2010, JCI exp Sep2010 asking for \$1300, obo. Available now, Contact Fern at 267-6553, or 090-3579-7126. email: biglmpers2002@yahoo.com

Zama - 2002 Nissan Cedric, 4DR, silver, 115,000K, A/C, keyless entry, Road tax paid, JCI expires Feb 2011, excellent condition, digital odometer, speedometer, and AC control. Asking for \$2300, OBO. Available JUILY please contact Fern at 267-6553, or 09035797126, email biglmpers2002@yahoo.com.

Zama - 1998 Honda Odyssey Van, JCI: 6 June 2011. Leather exterior, TV, navigational unit. Excellent cond. Available immediately. \$2,000.00 080-5688-0996/263-6976

Zama - 95 Nissan Primera (Infiniti G20), 48,000 km, new tires, brakes and battery. Equipped with Japanese Navigation Device. Good A/C, no dents, and top mechanical condition. JCI until March 2011. Road tax paid. Available after 1 July. \$1200.00 (Hh - 263-7069(W) or 263-7403 (Jh))

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Motorcycles 164

Atsugi - 2008 Harley Davidson Street Glide Anniversary Edition. 1000 miles JCI and road tax paid and inspection is good for two more years ABS C/C and much more. Asking \$17,750. Call DSN# 315-264-4112 or CELL# 080-3531-5391

Auto Parts 180

Yokota, Japan - 15" wheels looking for some - 15" wheels with a Son 5.5 lug pattern. Thanks for looking Please email meangreenparts@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Stock Honda Rims Looking to buy stock Honda Rims that will fit 95 Accord. I believe the bolt pattern is 4X114.3. Willing to pay a reasonable price or to trade my aftermarket rims with tires for stock rims and tires. Send me an e-mail for pictures. Call 9164734539 or email thunstated@gmail.com reasonable price. Thanks a lot

Baby Items 200

Yokosuka - White 5 in 1 crib with matching changing table and armoire. All offers considered. \$300. Jaken 246-8466 or tweetyd03@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Alpha Omega Elite 3-in-1 Car seat is in great condition. Rear-facing forward-facing booster. Up to 100lbs. asking \$75 OBO Call 225-7917

Zama - New Playhouse: \$100, Eddie Bower Baby Back pack: \$30, White Baby crib with bed: \$100. Call 513-984-4909 or 080-5688-0996/263-8976

Bicycles 220

Zama - Boys 26 inch bicycle. NEXT Power Climber 18 speed knobby tire street bike. Needs new inner tubes other wise like brand new condition, \$50. Two Symphonic color televisions 27" for \$75 and 19" for \$50. Email ed_major@hotmail.com.

Books 250

Yokota, Japan - Many UMUC books BMGT 380, Business law today 8th ED, Miller & Jentz \$70.00 ASTRO 100, Horizons exp universe, 10th ED, Seeds, \$35.00 HRMN 300, Human resource mgmt, 12th ED, Mathis \$80.00 PHSY 100, Physical science, 4th ED, Hewitt, \$80.00 HRMN 365, Generations @ work, Current ED, Zemke, \$15.00 Prices firm. Contact gaj222@yahoo.com or 080-4059-2674

Clothing 320

Yokota, Japan - 2 New Era NY Hats I have 2 good condition New Era NY hats. 1 is Blue W/ white Pin stripes the other is light Brown. I have only worn them a couple of times. Both are size 7 1/4 for 1 you can get it for \$15 or get both for \$30! Call Ryan 08087835117 or email rmh_00@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Magic 32 Shoes Size 9.5 in good condition only used when going to the gym. White & Blue Asking \$20 Call 080-8783-5117 or email rmh_00@hotmail.com

Club/Parties 340

TIF MISCELLANEOUS INTERNATIONAL PARTY Shibuya July 11, Sat. 6:30-9pm. Shibuya T's Salon. Held by Japan's biggest International Friendship Site. Meet 300 people. Beer, Cocktails and Soft drinks are all you can drink! Snacks are also provided! 3000 Yen. http://www.misellaneousparty.com Call 080-2001-0512 party@govver.co.jp

Computers 360

Sasebo - computer games for sale. Will MPS anywhere. The games are Windows/Mac compatible and hardly used. The games are Call of Duty World at War, Modern Warfare, WarCraft 2, Grand Theft Auto, Need for speed underground, flight simulator game, just to name a few. There are about thirty games in all. Will sell separately or all together. Please call or email for a full list or any questions. DSN 315-252-8131 or cell 080-3567-7311 or email jonjessbrandon@gmail.com

Yokosuka, Japan - Apple cinema display 24" monitor - Brand new original sealed with all accessories complete also comes with 12months international warranty. Email: bryanmolina55@yahoo.com Call: +447024077572

Yokota, Japan - Dell Inspiron mini laptop excellent condition only used once. 1GB memory and 160GB hard drive. Windows XP and Intel Atom Processor asking \$390 if you are interested or you have questions please email lily 481@hotmail.com or call 3145583409

Jobs Offered 630

CLINICAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST NEEDED IN IWANKUNI, JAPAN

Excellent oppty! Relocation Assistance

ANY STATE LICENSE - GREAT COMPENSATION
VACATION -10 HOLIDAYS

Contact Kristen 800-852-5678 ext.127
fax resume to 513-984-4909 or
email Khilliard@sterlingmedcorp.com

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VACATION -10 HOLIDAYS

Contact Kristen 800-852-5678 ext.127
fax resume to 513-984-4909 or
email Khilliard@sterlingmedcorp.com

Computers 360

Yokota, Japan - HP 22in Flat screen Monitor Used about 2 months then computer crashed, bought a MAC so I have no use for it now. Asking \$200 Contact gaj222@yahoo.com or 080-4059-2674

Furniture 510

Yokosuka-Toddler bed set "Thomas the Train" with reusable wall stickers. New still in original packaging \$45 Jaken 246-8466 or tweetyd03@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 4 drawer cherry dresser perfect for a little extra space in great shape. A few small nicks, but looks great. Asking \$75 Call Jill Piparo 407-373-1382

Yokota, Japan - Toddler Bed Very new, hardly used white toddler bed with mattress. Can deliver anywhere in Yokota. Asking \$60 Please call 090-9837-0640 or email m_barlam@yahoo.com

Furniture/Appliances 511

Yokota Japan - Air conditioner, CHOFU Sereno - Energy Efficient, Japanese Remote bought for \$1200 2 years ago. Sell for \$400. Please call Jaimee 090-8915-4154 or email jaimet82@gmail.com

Home Electronics 570

Yokota, Japan - 37" RCA LCD TV w/ HDMI Input updated we're looking to get maybe a 42 or 47 inch TV. I think we've had this one for a little over a year. Nothing wrong with it, the TV's been great for us just looking to get something bigger I don't have the model number right now, but if you email me I'll get it. Please send emails to skip592@hotmail.com we'll sell to the highest bid we receive. Right now the offer is at \$280

Yokota, Japan - DS games Xbox 360 game Ds games \$8.00 each. Teenage Mutant Ninja turtles Nickelodeon Danny Phantom Urban Jungle Xbox 360 game \$15.00 Cars Mater International Championship Call 407-373-1327 or email kristlehane@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Sony 29" TV (Japanese) - works perfectly fine. Selling because we are buying a newer TV Stand available (for free) if you need it. asking \$75 OBO Call 225-7917

Home Electronics 570

Yokota, Japan - Toshiba Black DVD player for sale! Remote and batteries included but the cover on the back of the remote for the batteries is missing. DVD player is in good shape asking \$40 Please email lired6290@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Xbox 360 games wanted. I want to buy left 4 dead \$30 halo 3 \$30 dead space \$25 halo 1 \$10 halo 2 \$10 all games must be a good condition please, no scratches, soda stains. I would like to have the orig. cases also, don't really care about the booklets. Call 314-558-3433 or email md_carey@hotmail.com

Zama - Two Symphonic color televisions 27" for \$75 and 19" for \$50. Email ed_major@hotmail.com

Jewelry 610

Yokota, Japan - Shane Co Men's Bracelet Stainless Steel 14K It has never been worn and is in good condition it was just too big for me. (8") Asking \$40 Call 080-6788-5117 or email rmh_00@hotmail.com

Musical Instruments 740

Yokota, Japan - Ovation acoustic-electric guitar w/Ovation Hard case Ovation Pinnacle model: CU-147 w/Ovation hard case 6-String Acoustic/Electric Body type: Mid-Depth Cutaway Top: AA Grade Solid Silka Spruce Bracing: A-Brace Scale Length: Scale: 25 1/4 Fret board: Dark Rosewood Fret Inlays: Abalone Dot Inlays Bridge: Walnut Pot-Set: Abalone Pickup: Ovation Thin Line Nut width: 1 11/16 Machines: Gold with Pearl Buttons Great guitar would like to purchase another electric. Asking \$450 Call 090-8054-5806 or email steelcity75@hotmail.com

Pets 820

Yokota, Japan - 10 Month old kitty needs love my husband is going on Deployment and I don't have a lot of time to give to our cat. She is up to date on shots and has been fixed and microchipped Comes with a bunch of toys, cat condo, scratch in post, bed, litter box, plenty of food and treats please email ms_lulu_84@yahoo.com we have plenty of pictures

Yokota, Japan - 7months Pure Breed Yorkie needing a new home. Love people and well trained. Asking \$800 OBO Call 1-773-634-7758 or email cmfrth28@yahoo.com

Pets 820

Yokota, Japan - 3yr Old Female Beagle Very loving and great with kids, house broken, loves to go for long walks and run, will also run along side of a bike. Micro chipped, and shots up to date as of last week. 4 month old daughter has allergies Asking \$200 Call 6237349658 or email kbemard@armed-svc.com

Yokota, Japan - 7 Month Old Great Pyrenees Beautiful Dog, housebroken, will be very large breed he is about 70lbs now, will be about 31-33inches tall, 120-150+ lbs, very laid back. Needs very responsible owner that will walk him everyday missing a walk is very bad for your stuff paid \$1600 off base. Daughter has allergies Asking \$1300 Call 6237349658 or email kbemard@armed-svc.com

Yokota, Japan - 8 week old Yorkie mix Recently new in potty training and looking for a new home. Asking \$400 Call 1-773-634-7758 or email cmfrth28@yahoo.com

Zama / SHA / Kanagawa - 3 y/o male tabby cat free to go good home. Shots & vaccines up to date and house trained. Better in a house where theres no other pets. Contact Trish or CJ at DSN PHONE: 267-6329 / 046-407-6329

Jobs Offered 630

U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Japan Camp Zama, Japan

Physical Therapist, Intermittent (240 hours)

Provides physical therapy service in the areas of physical disabilities and neuromuscular dysfunctions in patients ranging from adolescence to the very elderly.

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher in Physical Therapy from an accredited school in the United States.
- Two years clinical physical therapy experience with training in manual therapy skills is preferred.
- Must have a permanent, full, and unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in a State, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory of the United States.

Other Requirements:

- This position requires a signed statement due to requirements of seasonal influenza vaccination as a condition of employment. Selection of non-current employee will be withdrawn due to refusal of seasonal influenza vaccination. If refusal is due to medical and/or religious reasons, a statement from a credible source is required.

This is a contract position open to SOFA status applicants. Resumes may be sent to yoshiyasu.aoki@us.army.mil.

ALL applicants shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) which can be found at www.ccr.gov. Individuals not CCR registered are not eligible for a Government contract.

Religious Activities 871



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Photography 830

Yokota, Japan - brand new touch screen 10.4" digital frame great gift for your love one!! Brand New Never Been Opened in Box! 1024x768 High Resolution LCD Capture pictures and video store in or simply plug your memory card and play!! Comes with interchangeable frames - Silver and Black-fits all home decor With Touch screen Technology, turn photo album into pages. Stores up to 2000 Images with 512 MB Internal Memory Copy your photos directly from your digital camera, memory card or PC. Clock, Calendar, Alarm and Programmable On/Off Wireless and Blue tooth Compatibility Make an offer! Call 702-946-5885 or email liezel121603@yahoo.com

Sporting Goods 980

Misawa - New Calloway FT Iron Set, Right Handed, #4 through Pitching Wedge. Have not been hit yet. \$1169 new, only asking \$750.00. call 09036979711.

Miscellaneous 1040

Vacation Resort for \$950/week. I'm in Iraq and cannot stay in our timeshare this year. Don't stay in a Hotel for \$150/night. Stay in a 2Bed+livingroom in MyrtleBeach. Or pay the \$150 employment fee and stay anywhere around the world. David. Wayne100@yahoo.com

Atsugi - Late spring cleaning listing rummage sale! In Step bike trailer/chariot only used once and is in new condition, asking \$75 firm. Fisher Price rainforest themed baby bouncer in like new condition, asking \$25. Fender Statocaster Sapphire blue made in Mexico right handed guitar in brand new condition (and never played!) asking \$400. I bought the guitar for spouse for Christmas what was state side and imported it myself and I bought the wrong hand guitar, comes with soft carry case. Do you speak Spanish and seeking Spanish princess books for your favorite princess? Disney MI Version de la historia la enciclopedia y La Madrastra still wrapped in package- asking \$5. Combi baby walker in like new condition bought out in town, will keep your little one entertained for hours! asking \$50. Please contact Ann 090-7220-4952 for inquiries.



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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.-MLB: St. Louis at Cincinnati.

AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m.-MLB: Toronto at N.Y. Yankees.

AFN-Atlantic, 5 a.m.-MLB: Detroit at Minnesota.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.-MLB: N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia.

AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m.-MLB: L.A. Dodgers at San Diego.

AFN-Atlantic, 8 a.m.-MLS: D.C. at Columbus.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-MLB: Arizona at Colorado.

AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400.

AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.-MLB: Baltimore at L.A. Angels.

AFN-Xtra, 1 p.m.-MLB: Atlanta at Washington (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.-MLS: D.C. at Columbus (dld).

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.-Cycling: Tour de France, Stage 1, Monaco (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 6 p.m.-MLB: Chicago White Sox at Kansas City (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m.-MLB: Tampa Bay at Texas (dld).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-Tennis: Wimbledon, men's singles championship, Andy Roddick vs. Roger Federer.

AFN-Xtra, midnight-Soccer: 20th CONCACAF Gold Cup, Grenada vs. U.S. (dld).

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.-MLB: All-Star Game selection show.

AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m.-MLB: St. Louis at Cincinnati.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.-MLB: Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs.

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.-Golf: PGA AT&T National, final round.

AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m.-MLB: L.A. Dodgers at San Diego.

AFN-Atlantic, 6 a.m.-MLB: Houston at San Francisco (joined in progress).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-MLB: Tampa Bay at Texas.

AFN-Xtra, 10:30 a.m.-MLB: Detroit at Minnesota (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-Tennis: Wimbledon, men's singles championship, Andy Roddick vs. Roger Federer (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.-MLB: Arizona at Colorado (dld).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-Cycling: Tour de France, Stage 2, Monaco-Brignoles (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 11 p.m.-Auto racing: IndyCar Camping World Watkins Glen Grand Prix (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro basketball

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	7	2	.778	—
Chicago	6	3	.667	1
Washington	5	3	.625	1½
Connecticut	4	4	.500	2½
Atlanta	4	6	.400	3½
New York	3	6	.333	4
Detroit	2	6	.200	4½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	7	4	.636	—
Phoenix	7	4	.636	—
Seattle	6	4	.600	½
San Antonio	3	4	.429	2
Los Angeles	3	5	.375	2½
Sacramento	2	8	.200	4½
Wednesday's games				
Phoenix 93, Seattle 81				
Thursday's games				
Indiana 67, Connecticut 53				
New York 80, Detroit 64				
Sacramento 74, Minnesota 68				
Friday's games				
Washington at Atlanta				
Chicago at San Antonio				
Saturday's games				
No games scheduled				
Sunday's games				
Atlanta at Indiana				
Connecticut at Detroit				
Phoenix at Los Angeles				

Boxing

Fight schedule

July 10

At The Arena, Philadelphia. Matt Godfrey, Providence, R.I., vs. Shawn Hawn, Sioux Falls, S.D., 10, for Godfrey's NABF and SNBC cruiserweight titles; Shaun George, Brooklyn, N.Y., vs. Chris Henry, Houston, 10, light heavyweight.

July 11

At Nuerberg, Germany. Felix Sturm, Germany, vs. Khoren Gevor, Germany, 12, for Sturm's WBA middleweight title; Spasitan Zbik, Germany, vs. Domenico Spada, Italy, 12, for the interim WBC middleweight title.

At Kempton Park, South Africa. Philip Ndou, South Africa, vs. Lovemore Ndou, Australia, 12, IBO welterweight elimination bout; Simpiwe Vetskeya, South Africa, vs. Eric Barcelona, Philippines, 12, for the vacant IBO bantamweight title.

Golf

AT&T National				
PGA Tour				
At Congressional Country Club Course				
Bethesda, Md.				
Purse: \$6.2 million				
Yardage: 7,255; Par: 70 (35-35)				
First Round				
Anthony Kim	29-33	—62	—8	
D.A. Points	31-33	—64	—6	
Bryce Molder	30-34	—64	—6	
Tiger Woods	31-33	—64	—6	
Steve Elkington	33-32	—65	—5	
Daniel Chopra	31-35	—66	—4	
Jim Furyk	33-33	—66	—4	
Stuart Appleby	34-32	—66	—4	
Justin Rose	34-33	—67	—3	
Boo Weekley	32-35	—67	—3	
Michael Allen	33-34	—67	—3	
Rob Pamplung	35-32	—67	—3	
Y.E. Yang	34-33	—67	—3	
Tim Petrovic	36-32	—68	—2	
Cameron Beckman	30-38	—68	—2	
Brandt Snedeker	33-35	—68	—2	
Bart Bryant	35-33	—68	—2	
Michael Letzig	33-35	—68	—2	
Danny Lee	34-34	—68	—2	
Bo Van Pelt	35-34	—69	—1	
Kevin Stadler	33-36	—69	—1	
Ryan Moore	34-35	—69	—1	
Ryui Imada	37-32	—69	—1	
Davis Love III	34-35	—69	—1	
Sean O'Hair	35-34	—69	—1	
Joe Ogilvie	35-34	—69	—1	
Dean Wilson	34-35	—69	—1	
Troy Matteson	35-34	—69	—1	
Jeff Quinney	37-32	—69	—1	
Ryan Palmer	35-34	—69	—1	
Steve Flesch	34-35	—69	—1	
Hunter Mahan	34-35	—69	—1	
Lucas Glover	33-36	—69	—1	
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-35	—69	—1	
Harrison Frazar	34-35	—69	—1	
Jeff Overton	32-37	—69	—1	
John Mahoney	34-36	—70	—E	
Rocco Mediate	32-38	—70	—E	
George McNeill	35-35	—70	—E	
Chris DiMarco	34-36	—70	—E	
Nick Watney	36-34	—70	—E	
Pat Perez	34-36	—70	—E	
Cliff Kresge	34-36	—70	—E	
Kevin Streelman	34-36	—70	—E	
Brian Davis	35-35	—70	—E	
Peter Lonard	33-37	—70	—E	
Martin Laird	36-34	—70	—E	
Robert Garrigus	36-34	—70	—E	
Mark Leishman	33-37	—70	—E	
Cheez Reavie	35-35	—70	—E	
Vijay Singh	35-35	—70	—E	
Mark Wilson	34-36	—70	—E	
Ricky Barnes	34-36	—70	—E	
Notah Begay III	36-34	—70	—E	
James Driscoll	37-33	—70	—E	
Matt Bettencourt	35-35	—70	—E	
Bill Luoma	35-35	—70	—E	
Jeff Klauk	34-37	—71	—E	
Fred Funk	37-34	—71	—E	
Parker McLachlin	33-38	—71	—E	
Nick O'Hern	37-34	—71	—E	
Matt Hill	34-37	—71	—E	
Kevin Na	34-37	—71	—E	
Nicholas Thompson	36-35	—71	—E	
Nathan Green	35-36	—71	—E	
Mark Turnesa	37-34	—71	—E	
Mike Weir	35-36	—71	—E	
Charley Hoffman	34-37	—71	—E	
John Senden	34-37	—71	—E	
James Nitties	36-35	—71	—E	
David Mathis	37-34	—71	—E	
Jeff Maggert	36-36	—72	—E	
Oliver Browne	35-37	—72	—E	
Jason Dufner	35-37	—72	—E	
Johnson Wagner	33-39	—72	—E	
Charles Howell III	35-37	—72	—E	
Fred Couples	36-36	—72	—E	
Richard S. Johnson	37-35	—72	—E	
Corey Pavin	35-37	—72	—E	
Jason Bohn	36-36	—72	—E	
Scott McCarron	36-36	—72	—E	
Aron Price	38-34	—72	—E	
Robert Allenby	33-39	—72	—E	
Aaron Baddeley	36-36	—72	—E	
Eric Axley	36-36	—72	—E	
Paul Azinger	35-37	—72	—E	
Brad Adamonis	35-37	—72	—E	
Chris Riley	35-37	—72	—E	
Rich Beem	35-37	—72	—E	
Matthew Goggin	35-37	—72	—E	
Scott Piercy	35-38	—73	—E	
Tim Herron	35-38	—73	—E	
Ted Purdy	39-34	—73	—E	
Bob Estes	33-40	—73	—E	
Steve Marino	35-38	—73	—E	
Alex Cejka	34-39	—73	—E	
Charles Warren	37-36	—73	—E	
Charlie Wi	34-39	—73	—E	
Todd Hamilton	36-37	—73	—E	
Paul Goydos	36-37	—73	—E	
Webb Simpson	36-38	—74	—E	
Steve Lowery	38-36	—74	—E	
Billy Mayfair	37-37	—74	—E	
Chris Stroud	35-39	—74	—E	

AP spotlight

July 5

1947 — Larry Doby becomes the first black to play in the American League. He strikes out as a pinch-hitter for the Chicago White Sox.

1952 — Maureen Connolly wins her first of three straight women's singles title at Wimbledon, defeating Louise Brough 6-4, 6-3.

1968 — The Philadelphia 76ers trade Wilt Chamberlain, basketball's greatest offensive player, to the Los Angeles Lakers after they are unable to sign him to a contract.

1968 — Australia's Rod Laver wins the first open Wimbledon tennis championship, defeating countryman Tony Roche 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Laver becomes the first player since Fred Perry (1934-36) to win the men's title three straight times.

Soccer

CONCACAF Gold Cup				
FIRST ROUND				
Top two in each group, two best third-place teams advance to quarterfinals				
GROUP A				
	W	L	T	Pts
Canada	0	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0
El Salvador	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0
Friday, July 3				
At Carson, Calif.				
Canada vs. Jamaica				
Costa Rica vs. El Salvador				
Tuesday, July 7				
At Columbus, Ohio				
Jamaica vs. Costa Rica				
El Salvador vs. Canada				
Friday, July 10				
At Miami				
Costa Rica vs. Canada				
El Salvador vs. Jamaica				
GROUP B				
	W	L	T	Pts
Grenada	0	0	0	0
Haiti	0	0	0	0
Honduras	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0
Saturday, July 4				
At Seattle				
Honduras vs. Haiti				
Grenada at United States				
Wednesday, July 8				
At Washington				
Haiti vs. Grenada				
Honduras at United States				
Saturday, July 11				
At Foxborough, Mass.				
Haiti at United States				
Honduras vs. Grenada				
GROUP C				
	W	L	T	Pts
Guadeloupe	0	0	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	0
Sunday, July 5				
At Oakland, Calif.				
Panama vs. Guadeloupe				
Nicaragua vs. Mexico				
Thursday, July 9				
At Houston				
Guadeloupe vs. Nicaragua				
Mexico vs. Panama				
Sunday, July 12				
At Glendale, Ariz.				
Panama vs. Nicaragua				
Mexico vs. Guadeloupe				
MLS				
Eastern Conference				
	W	L	T	Pts
D.C.	5	3	8	23
Columbus	5	3	7	22
Toronto FC	6	6	4	22
Chicago	5	3	6	21
Kansas City	5	5	4	19
New England	4	4	4	16
New York	2	12	4	10
Western Conference				
	W	L	T	Pts
Houston	8	3	4	28
Chivas USA	8	4	3	27
Seattle	6	3	7	25
Colorado	5	3	6	21
Real Salt Lake	5	6	4	19
Los Angeles	3	3	9	18
FC Dallas	3	7	5	14
San Jose	3	8	3	12
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.				
Friday's game				
San Jose at Real Salt Lake				
Saturday's games				
D.C. United at Columbus				
Chicago at Colorado				
Houston at Kansas City				
New York at FC Dallas				
New England at Los Angeles				
WPS				
	W	L	T	Pts
Los Angeles	10	1	4	34
Boston	5	4	3	18
Saint Louis	5	5	2	17
Washington	4	5	4	16
Chicago	3	6	5	14
Sky Blue FC	3	6	3	12
FC Gold Pride	3	6	3	12
Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.				
Wednesday's games				
Chicago 2, Washington 1				
Saturday's games				
Boston at Sky Blue FC				

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ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS, LEFT, AND ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Andy Roddick, left, goes airborne during his semifinal victory over Andy Murray. At right, Roger Federer served 11 aces during his semifinal triumph over Tommy Haas.

Wimbledon

Federer must go through Roddick

American waits in final in attempt to keep Swiss star from winning a record 15th major championship

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Five-time champion Roger Federer reached his seventh consecutive Wimbledon final Friday and will face Andy Roddick for a chance at a record 15th Grand Slam title.

Federer delivered a masterful grass-court performance to beat Tommy Haas 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-3, extending his winning run to 18 consecutive matches and closing in on the mark he shares with Pete Sampras of 14 major titles.

Federer will meet Roddick in the final for the third time in six years after the American defeated Andy Murray 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5). The Swiss star beat Roddick in the 2004 and '05 finals and has won 18 of 20 matches between the two.

The third-seeded Murray had been seeking to become the first British man to reach the final in 71 years and first to take the title since 1936, but Roddick outplayed him on the big points to silence the home fans. "To be honest, the last couple of years I didn't know if I'd ever get a chance to play for another Grand Slam title," said Roddick, who won the U.S. Open in 2003. "Now I get to. It's just a dream."

Roddick saved a break point with Murray leading 4-3 in the fourth set on a forehand winner, then came through with big serves in the tiebreaker. When Murray slapped a backhand into the net on the second match

point, Roddick fell to his knees on the grass and leaned forward, covering his head.

"I had to play my best tennis out there to win today," Roddick said. "I can't say enough good things about Andy's game, but I can play some tennis sometimes, and not many people were giving me much of a chance at all, and I knew if I could stay the course that I had a shot and that's all you can ask for."

Murray dominated the statistics, but couldn't overcome Roddick's clutch play. Murray had 25 aces, 76 winners and 20 errors, compared with 21, 64 and 24 for the American. "Throughout my career I've had a lot of shortcomings, but trying hard hasn't been one of them," Roddick said. "To be fair, he had all the pressure on him and I could come out and kind of swing and

that probably helped me today."

Federer finished his match with a flourish, leaping high for a smash reminiscent of Sampras in his Wimbledon heyday. He is the first man to make it to seven consecutive Wimbledon finals in the history of a tournament that began in 1877.

Federer never faced a break point as he beat Haas for the ninth successive time to reach his record 20th Grand Slam final. He had been tied with Ivan Lendl at 19 apiece. "I'm very happy with my performance and it's unbelievable to back into another Wimbledon final," Federer said. "I've had a lot of pressure over all the years, so this is just another great match, great opportunity for me to get into the history books."

If Federer wins Sunday, he will be the third player to win six or more Wimbledon

titles. William Renshaw and Sampras each won seven.

"I'm very proud of all the records I've achieved because I never thought I would be that successful as a kid," Federer said.

Federer said he is feeling less pressure this year than in 2007, when he equaled Bjorn Borg's record of five Wimbledon titles in a row. Borg was among those watching Friday from the Royal Box.

Federer, who completed a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open last month, said he would be happy if Sampras came to Wimbledon to watch him try to break his record. Sampras is home in California looking after his two young sons. "He might come around, he might not," Federer said. "It's his choice. I'd love to see him because he's a good friend of mine. Very honored of course that I share the record of 14 with him."

The women's final is Saturday, with a Williams assured the trophy for the eighth time in 10 years. Venus is back in the final for the eighth time, and Serena for the fifth. It's the fourth Williams-Williams final at the All England Club and eighth in a Grand Slam tournament. And the show will take place on the Fourth of July. The sisters reached their second Wimbledon doubles final in a row Friday, beating top-seeded Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of the United States. 6-1, 6-2. They will face Samantha Stosur and Rennae Stubbs of Australia for the title.

Wimbledon scoreboard

At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
Wimbledon, England
Purse: \$20.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles
Men

Semifinals
Roger Federer (2), Switzerland, def. Tommy Haas (24), Germany, 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-3.

Andy Roddick (6), United States, def. Andy Murray (3), Britain, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).

Doubles
Women

Serena and Venus Williams (4), United States, def. Cara Black,

Zimbabwe, and Liezel Huber (1), United States, 6-1, 6-2.

Samantha Stosur and Rennae Stubbs (3), Australia, def. Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual (2), Spain, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2.

Invitational Doubles
Round Robin
Senior Gentlemen

Group A
Ken Flach, United States, and Danie Visser, South Africa, def. Vijay Amritraj, India, and John Fitzgerald, Australia, 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 tiebreak.

Kevin Curren and Johan Kriek, United States, def. Mansour Bahrami, Iran, and Henri Leconte, France, 6-1, 6-4.

Ladies
Group A

Ivana Kloss, South Africa, and Ros Nideffer, United States, def. Annabel Croft and Samantha Smith, Britain, 6-2, 7-5.

Jana Novotna, Czech Republic, and Andrea Temesvari, Hungary, def. Gretchen Magers, United States, and Conchita Martinez, Spain, 6-4, 3-6, 12-10 tiebreak.

Group B
Martina Navratilova, United States, and Helena Sukova, Czech Republic, def. Tracy Austin and Kathy Rinaldi-Stunkel, United States, 7-5, 6-3.

Phelps is back in the swim with TV commercials for Subway

By RACHEL COHEN
The Associated Press

Nearly a year after his record Olympics, Michael Phelps still sells.

Subway, the sandwich chain, is banking on the swimmer's transcendent popularity when it launches the first commercials starring Phelps as its new pitchman.

"In many ways, Michael breaks the mold," said Tony Pace, the company's chief marketing officer.

"Based on all the tracking we do, he's still incredibly highly regarded and his performance is still something people talk about."

Phelps won eight gold medals at the Beijing Games, and Subway signed him to a deal not long afterward. The first ad will roll out Sunday as he prepares to compete in an event that usually doesn't draw much attention: the U.S. national championships, which begin Tuesday in Indianapolis.

That meet, and the world championships this month in Rome, will be televised on NBC for the first time, a testament to Phelps' appeal. "It's becoming a more mainstream sport," Phelps told The Associated Press during a telephone interview.

The Subway campaign also proves that Phelps' popularity as an endorser survived the publication of a photo showing

him inhaling from a marijuana pipe last February.

"As Michael himself was disappointed, so were we," Pace said.

"We didn't think it was reflective of who he was and what he's all about. We also thought because he was truly regretful, we thought he was going to be able to get beyond it."

Kellogg Co. dropped Phelps almost immediately, but Subway stayed with him — even announcing it was doing so the day after he was suspended three months by USA Swimming.

"It just showed they stood by my side and are going to support me through a lot,"

Phelps said. "To be able to have someone like that who's going to be there through thick and thin means the most to me."

TV viewers will learn Sunday that Phelps favors a meatball sub with jalapenos.

Pace said it's likely the company will use Phelps in promotions even during periods when he's not competing.

Phelps plans to enter three individual races at the national championships, though he didn't say which ones.

He's been focused on improving his time in the 100-meter freestyle, but he acknowledged that the schedule at the world meet might prevent him from swimming that event.

Interservice scoreboard

Softball

Firecracker Shootout
At Gunners Fitness Center Softball
Fields, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Pool-play standings
(x-qualified for
double-elimination playoffs)

x-American Legion, Okinawa	5-0
x-Camp Humphreys, South Korea	4-1
x-Master Batters, Okinawa	2-2
x-Yokota Air Base, Japan	2-2
Anglico, Okinawa	0-4
Scuttle Chunks, Okinawa	0-4

Thursday's games

Camp Humphreys 9, Yokota Air Base 8
American Legion 39, Scuttle Chunks 1

Friday's games

Master Batters 14, Anglico 4	
Camp Humphreys 21, Scuttle Chunks 1	
Yokota Air Base 17, Anglico 8	
American Legion 11, Master Batters 4	
Camp Humphreys 20, Anglico 4	
Master Batters 17, Scuttle Chunks 2	
American Legion 16, Yokota Air Base 2	
Camp Humphreys 15, Master Batters 10	
American Legion 33, Anglico 1	
Yokota Air Base 21, Scuttle Chunks 6	
American Legion 16, Camp Humphreys 3	
Master Batters vs. Yokota Air Base, late	

Saturday's game

Anglico vs. Scuttle Chunks, 2 a.m.

Men's Pool B

x-Misawa Outlaws, Japan	4-0
x-Yellow Box, Okinawa	3-1
x-Honcho Dragons, Japan	3-1
Endus, Okinawa	1-3
Whiskey D, Okinawa	1-3
Heat, Okinawa	0-4

Thursday's games

Misawa Outlaws 14, Honcho Dragons 12
Whiskey D 17, Heat 4

Friday's games

Yellow Box 16, Endus 7	
Honcho Dragons 15, Whiskey D 2	
Misawa Outlaws 19, Endus 4	
Yellow Box 23, Heat 0	
Misawa Outlaws 11, Heat 0	
Honcho Dragons 14, Endus 2	
Yellow Box 18, Whiskey D 3	
Honcho Dragons 13, Yellow Box 12	
Endus 11, Heat 10	
Misawa Outlaws 20, Whiskey D 2	
Honcho Dragons vs. Heat, late	

Saturday's games

Yellow Box vs. Misawa Outlaws, 1 a.m.
Endus vs. Whiskey D, 3 a.m.

Men's Pool C

x-Yongsan Garrison, South Korea	2-0
x-Club Red, Okinawa	3-1
x-Camp Casey/Area I, South Korea	2-2
x-Paddy Mac's, Okinawa	1-2
Unknowns, Okinawa	0-3

Thursday's games

Camp Casey/Area I 13, Unknowns 0
Club Red 18, Paddy Mac's 6

Friday's games

Club Red 16, Camp Casey/Area I 12	
Club Red 14, Unknowns 4	
Camp Casey/Area I 22, Paddy Mac's 14	
Paddy Mac's 9, Unknowns 8	
Yongsan Garrison 20, Club Red 10	
Yongsan Garrison 13, Camp Casey/Area I 12	
Yongsan Garrison vs. Unknowns, late	
Yongsan Garrison vs. Paddy Mac's, late	

Men's double-elimination playoffs

Saturday's games

Game 1-C2 vs. B4, 6 a.m.	
Game 2-C3 vs. A4, 7:30 a.m.	
Game 3-B2 vs. A3, 7:30 a.m.	
Game 4-B3 vs. C4, 9 a.m.	

Game 5-Game 1 winner vs. Camp Humphreys, South Korea, 9 a.m.

Game 6-Game 2 winner vs. B1, 10:30 a.m.

Game 7-Game 3 winner vs. C1, 10:30 a.m.

Game 8-Game 4 winner vs. American Legion, Okinawa, noon

Game 9-Game 3 loser vs. Game 5 loser, noon

Game 10-Game 4 loser vs. Game 6 loser, 1:30 p.m.

Game 11-Game 1 loser vs. Game 7 loser, 1:30 p.m.

Game 12-Game 2 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 3 p.m.

Game 13-Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 3 p.m.

Game 14-Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 4:30 p.m.

Game 15-Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 6 p.m.

Game 16-Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 6 p.m.

Game 17-Game 14 winner vs. Game 15 loser, 7:30 p.m.

Game 18-Game 13 winner vs. Game 16 loser, 9 p.m.

Game 19-Game 15 winner vs. Game 16 winner, 10:30 p.m.

Game 20-Game 17 winner vs. Game 18 winner, midnight

Sunday's games

Game 21-Game 19 loser vs. Game 20 winner, 1:30 a.m.

Game 22-Game 19 winner vs. Game 21 winner, 12:30 p.m.

Game 23-Game 19 winner vs. Game 21 winner if Game 19 winner loses Game 22, 3:30 p.m.

Women's Pool X

Pitchslap, Okinawa	4-0
Yongsan Garrison, South Korea	1-1
Misawa Outlaws, Japan	1-2
Osan Air Base, South Korea	1-2
Okinawa Typhoons	1-3

Thursday's games

Pitchslap 14, Osan Air Base 3
Okinawa Typhoons 9, Osan Air Base 8

Pitchslap 10, Misawa Outlaws 8

Friday's games

Osan Air Base 8, Misawa Outlaws 7

Misawa Outlaws 21, Okinawa Typhoons 3

Pitchslap 6, Yongsan Garrison 2

Yongsan Garrison 4, Okinawa Typhoons 0

Pitchslap 12, Okinawa Typhoons 9

Yongsan Garrison vs. Osan Air Base, late

Yongsan Garrison vs. Misawa Outlaws, late

Women's Pool W

Yard Busters, Okinawa 3-0

Yokota Air Base, Japan 1-2

Camp Casey/Area I, South Korea 1-2

Camp Humphreys, South Korea 1-2

Thursday's games

Camp Casey/Area I 18, Camp Humphreys 11

Yard Busters 22, Camp Humphreys 0

Yard Busters 16, Camp Casey/Area I 3

Friday's games

Camp Humphreys 10, Yokota Air Base 6

Yokota Air Base 8, Camp Casey/Area I 7

Yard Busters 17, Yokota Air Base 1

Women's double-elimination playoffs

Saturday's games

Game 1-Camp Humphreys, South Korea, vs. X5, 1 a.m.

Game 2-Yard Busters, Okinawa, vs. X4, 2:30 a.m.

Game 3-X2 vs. Camp Casey/Area I, South Korea, 4 a.m.

Game 4-Game 1 winner vs. Pitchslap, Okinawa, 5:30 a.m.

Game 5-Yokota Air Base, Japan, vs. X3, 7 a.m.

Game 6-Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 9:30 a.m.

Game 7-Game 4 loser vs. Game 5 loser, 11 a.m.

Game 8-Game 2 winner vs. Game 3

winner, 12:30 p.m.

Game 9-Game 3 loser vs. Game 6 winner, 3:30 p.m.

Game 10-Game 4 winner vs. Game 5 winner, 2 p.m.

Game 11-Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser, 6 p.m.

Game 12-Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 loser, 7:30 p.m.

Game 13-Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner, 9 p.m.

Game 14-Game 11 winner vs. Game 12 winner, 10:30 p.m.

Game 15-Game 13 loser vs. Game 14 winner, midnight

Sunday's games

Game 16-Game 13 winner vs. Game 15 winner, 10 a.m.

Game 17-Game 13 winner vs. Game 15 winner if Game 13 winner loses Game 16, 2 p.m.

Basketball

Women's Summer Basketball Challenge
At Coral Reef Fitness & Sports Center,
Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Pool-play standings

Osan Air Base, South Korea	3-0
Ace Hardware, Guam	1-1
Andersen Air Force Base, Guam	1-2
Crusaders, Guam	0-2

Friday's summary

Osan Air Base 76,

Andersen Air Force Base 42

Scoring: Osan Air Base, Laquana Ayers 21, Nina Hawkins 16; Andersen Air Force Base, Tisha Alexander 12, Patricia Gann 10.

Saturday's games

Crusaders vs. Ace Hardware, 11 a.m.

Third-place game

Teams to be determined, 2 p.m.

Championship

Teams TBD, 3:30 p.m.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Left fielder Shawn Curtis of Okinawa's Club Red guns the ball back to the infield against Yongsan Garrison of South Korea during Friday's pool-play game in the Firecracker Shootout Interservice Softball Tournament at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Yongsan won 20-10.

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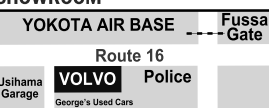
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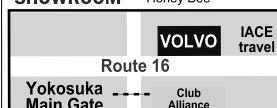
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Sports briefs

New football league will consider signing Vick

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When the United Football League debuts in October, Michael Vick could be one of its players.

Michael Huyghue, the commissioner of the new four-team league, says the UFL is willing to give Vick a place to play — provided there are no pending legal issues. His rights belong to the Orlando franchise.

“One of the things that is important in our premiere season is to showcase the quality of talent and the coaches, and to be able to show outstanding players who find themselves in this quagmire the NFL creates,” Huyghue said. “Michael Vick might be that kind of player because he is ... a phenomenal talent, but he needs transitioning back into the NFL.”

“Also gaining as much widespread exposure for the league as possible might be addressed with Michael Vick.”

Huyghue said he will monitor the Vick situation closely and “if he is free and clear of legal issues, we will look at the situation.”

Vick already has served an 18-month sentence in federal prison for his involvement in a dogfighting ring. He is under home confinement until July 20, after which the NFL is expected to announce whether the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback will be suspended.

Vick, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 draft, has not played football since the 2006 season.

The UFL will have teams in Orlando, New York, Las Vegas and San Francisco, playing games mostly on Thursday nights in October and November. The championship game will be Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving.

Orlando acquired UFL rights to Vick in an allocation draft of players not under contract in the NFL.

Report: Celtics offer Rasheed Wallace a contract

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics have offered forward Rasheed Wallace a contract as part of a major push to land the coveted forward, according to a published report on Friday.

The Boston Globe reported that the Celtics offered Wallace a deal during a three-hour meeting in Detroit on Thursday. Celtics stars Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen and Paul Pierce joined general manager Danny Ainge and managing partner Wyc Grousbeck for the meeting.

Wallace's agent, Bill Strickland, told the Globe in a text message that it was a “very good meeting; some contractual terms discussed, nothing agreed to.”

He also said Wallace will be meeting with other teams next week. Charlotte, Cleveland, Orlando and San Antonio are said to be possible suitors.

Phoenix police: Mercury's Taurasi cited for DUI

PHOENIX — Diana Taurasi, the leading scorer for the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, was cited for drunken driving a few hours



JASON HIRSCHFELD/AP

The commissioner of the United Football League said the league is willing to give Michael Vick, above, a place to play if he has no pending legal issues related to his sentence for his involvement in a dogfighting ring.

after a victory over the Seattle Storm, police said.

Phoenix police spokesman Luis Samudio said Taurasi was stopped about 2:30 a.m. for speeding. A police statement said the officer smelled alcohol and gave her several field sobriety tests.

Taurasi was then driven to a mobile DUI van where she gave a blood sample, then was cited and released. Authorities did not know her blood alcohol content.

Taurasi, a guard, scored 22 points and blocked four shots in Wednesday night's 93-81 victory over the Storm. She leads in fan voting for the WNBA's All-Star game on July 25.

Kim fires 62 in AT&T National

BETHESDA, Md. — Anthony Kim ran off eight birdies over his final 13 holes and set the course record at Congressional with an 8-under 62, giving him a two-shot lead over tournament host Tiger Woods, Bryce Molder and D.A. Points.

In other golf news:

■ At Sylvania, Ohio, Morgan Pressel, Song-Hee Kim and Laura Diaz shot 7-under 64s to share the first-round lead in the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic, a stroke ahead of Michelle Wie and Suzann Pettersen at Highland Meadows.

■ Paula Creamer plans to play in the U.S. Women's Open next week despite a sore thumb.

Jets LB suspended for violating performance-enhancers policy

NEW YORK — The NFL suspended New York Jets linebacker Calvin Pace for four games without pay for violating the league's rules governing use of performance-enhancing substances.

Pace will miss New York's first four games of the season and be eligible to return for the Monday night game at Miami on Oct. 12.

In a statement issued by the Jets, Pace said the ban was the result of him taking an over-the-counter dietary supplement that he was unaware was on the NFL's banned list.

Pace, in his second season with the Jets, is eligible to participate in preseason practices and ex-

hibition games. The suspension begins Sept. 5. He can return to practice on Oct. 5, a day after New York's game at New Orleans.

More evidence points to Arguello death a suicide

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Investigators have released new evidence that points to suicide in the death of former boxing champion and Managua mayor Alexis Arguello.

The rising star of the governing Sandinista party, a movement he once bitterly opposed, died at his home of a gunshot to the chest early Wednesday. He was 57.

Assistant judicial police chief Glenda Zavala says traces of gunpowder were found on Arguello's hands, suggesting he shot himself. There were no other signs of violence in the room where he was found.

Nicaraguans formed long lines Thursday for an open-casket ceremony at the Palacio de la Cultura in the capital. The Hall of Fame boxer was best known for his classic brawl with Aaron Pryor in 1982, which Ring Magazine called the “Fight of the Decade.”

Armstrong under doping watch in Tour de France

PARIS — France's sports minister said Lance Armstrong will be “particularly monitored” in anti-doping checks in the Tour de France this year.

Roselyne Bachelot, speaking in an interview on French cable TV on Friday, sent the warning to the seven-time Tour winner who has come out of retirement to race again in cycling's showcase event.

“The (doping) controls will be multiplied, and I tell Lance Armstrong that he will be particularly, particularly, particularly monitored,” Bachelot told i-Tele.

The American has denied having taken banned substances during his cycling career.

■ Sprint star Tom Boonen of Belgium was cleared to compete in the Tour de France after winning his appeal of a ban for testing positive for cocaine.

Recchi, Bruins agree

BOSTON — Mark Recchi joined the Boston Bruins hoping to win his fourth Stanley Cup ring. He decided to stay to take another shot at it.

The NHL's sixth-ranked active goal scorer signed a one-year deal Thursday to return to the Bruins. Recchi, 41, obtained in a March 4 trade from Tampa Bay, said four days after the Bruins were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs that he might retire if they didn't offer him a contract.

Also:

■ Anaheim Ducks forward Teemu Selanne said his next NHL season will be his last.

Selanne, a 10-time all-star, celebrated his 39th birthday Friday. He told the Helsingin Sanomat newspaper in Finland that a man his age doesn't belong in the NHL.

■ The Atlanta Thrashers signed free agent forward Nik

Antropov to a four-year, \$16 million contract on Thursday, setting up a reunion with Ilya Kovalchuk. Antropov, 29, played with Kovalchuk in Russia during the NHL lockout.

■ Rob Scuderi signed a four-year contract with the Los Angeles Kings on Thursday, leaving the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins without their top defensive pairing. Scuderi, who teamed with Hal Gill to form a shutdown tandem on the blue line, led the Penguins with a plus-23 rating and had a career-high 16 points in 81 regular-season games. He also had a team-high 164 blocked shots.

■ The Pittsburgh Penguins on Friday agreed to terms on a one-year contract with forward Ruslan Fedotenko, who joined the team a year ago as a free agent. The winger, 30, had 16 goals and 23 assists in 65 regular-season games, and scored seven goals in 24 playoff games during the Penguins' run to their third Stanley Cup championship.

■ Free agent forward Mikael Samuelsson signed a three-year contract with the Vancouver Canucks on Friday. Financial terms were not disclosed. The Swedish right wing spent the past four seasons in Detroit. Samuelsson, 32, has 86 goals and 208 points in 466 career NHL games.

Bay becomes U.S. citizen

BOSTON — Boston Red Sox left fielder Jason Bay married an American, has two American daughters and makes his living playing America's pastime.

Now he can say he's an American, too.

Bay, 30, a native of Trail, British Columbia, was among 360 people who were sworn in as U.S. citizens on Thursday in a naturalization ceremony at Faneuil Hall.

■ The Toronto Blue Jays purchased the contract of outfielder Dave Dellucci from Triple-A Las Vegas and cleared a roster spot by designating utilityman Russ Adams for assignment. Dellucci, 35, hit .275 with one RBI in 14 games this year for the Cleveland Indians, who released him June 1. Toronto signed him to a minor league contract nine days later. He batted .317 in 16 games at Las Vegas with three homers and nine RBIs.

CFL fines player for TD tribute to Michael Jackson

TORONTO — The Canadian Football League fined Toronto Argonauts receiver Arland Bruce for “excessive actions” during his tribute to the late Michael Jackson after scoring a touchdown. Bruce was fined an undisclosed amount, the CFL said Thursday.

After scoring on a 21-yard pass that put Toronto ahead 6-0, Bruce removed his helmet, shoulder pads and uniform top, then laid down in the end zone. Bruce said he was honoring the memory of Jackson by pretending to be buried.

Referees gave Bruce two objectionable conduct penalties for his actions in the game, which the Argonauts won 30-17 on Wednesday night.

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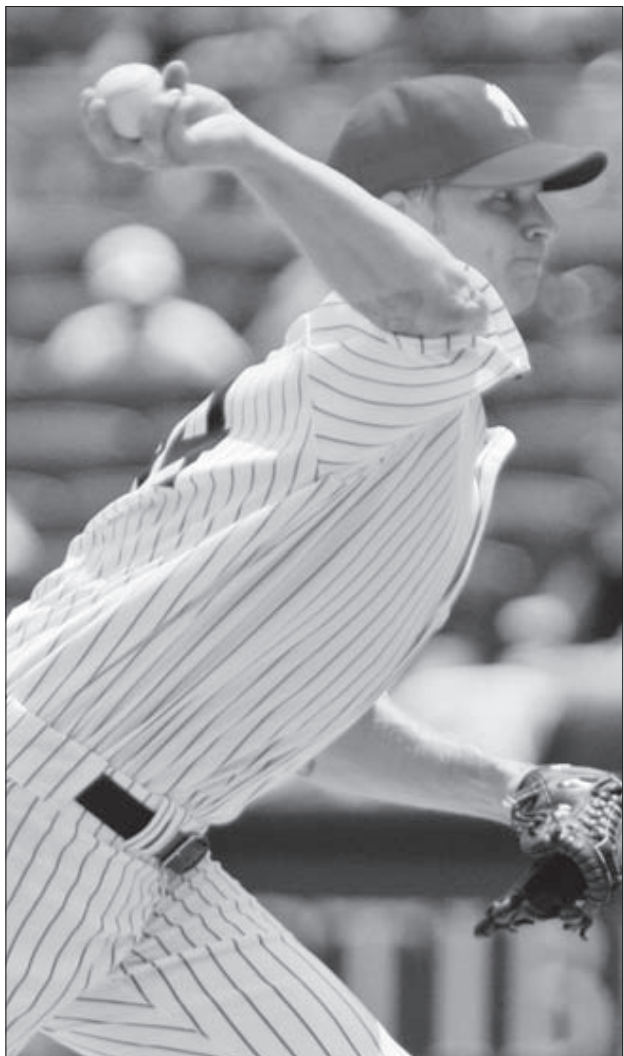


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FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

A.J. Burnett limited his former team to two runs and six hits over seven innings Friday as the New York Yankees beat Toronto 4-2. He lost to the Blue Jays on May 12 in his first game against Toronto.

AL roundup

Yanks get back on track

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A.J. Burnett quickly got the New York Yankees back to their winning ways.

Burnett scattered six hits over seven innings, and Robinson Cano and Alex Rodriguez homered, as the Yankees opened a long holiday weekend with a 4-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday.

Wearing jarring red caps as part of Major League Baseball's Fourth of July weekend celebration, the Yankees rebounded from Thursday night's 8-4 loss to Seattle for their eighth victory in nine games. It was the start of an unusual stretch of four straight day games between New York and Toronto, a series that includes Saturday's observance of the 70th anniversary of Lou Gehrig's famous farewell speech.

Burnett (7-4), who lost to his former team at Toronto on May 12, allowed both runs, struck out seven and walked two. He got his first three strikeouts with 96 mph fastballs, then rung up his final four with curveballs in the low 80s.

Phil Coke and Phil Hughes split the eighth, with Hughes retiring Vernon Wells on an inning-ending grounder with a runner on second. Mariano Rivera struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 21st save, No. 503 of his career.

Brian Tallet (5-6) walked a career-high six in his previous start, against Philadelphia, and he again struggled with his control. He gave up three runs — two earned — six hits and four walks

in six innings, forcing in the go-ahead run with a bases-loaded, four-pitch walk to Mark Teixeira in the fifth.

That was the third walk of the inning for the Yankees, who made it 3-1 on a passed ball by Raul Chavez, who appeared to get crossed up on the first pitch to Cano. New York was helped earlier in the fifth when Tallet's underhand toss on Johnny Damon's bunt rolled to first, a play scored an error and then changed to a hit.

Wells, dropped to No. 6 in the starting batting order for the first time since June 3, 2005, hit a long homer to left in the sixth to pull the Blue Jays to 3-2. It was the eighth homer for Wells, who entered in a 2-for-19 slide.

Rodriguez led off the eighth against Jeremy Accardo with an opposite-field homer to right. Rodriguez has 14 homers this season, including five in his past eight games, and 567 in his career, two shy of Rafael Palmeiro for 10th on the career list.

Cano had put the Yankees ahead in the second when he drove an 87 mph pitch off the back wall of the visitor's bullpen in right-center. He had gone 12 games without an RBI since June 17.

Alex Rios' RBI single tied it in the fourth.

In Thursday games:

Mariners 8, Yankees 4: Russell Branyan hit a colossal home run to end a frustrating string of seven straight strikeouts and help Seattle snap New York's seven-game winning streak.

Franklin Gutierrez homered for the Mariners, Ichiro Suzuki hit a two-run double and Chris Woodward added two RBIs as Seattle ended a 10-game losing streak in the Bronx.

Branyan launched his 20th homer in the ninth inning, a two-run shot off right-hander Alfredo Aceves that made it 8-4. It was the first drive at the new Yankee Stadium to carom off the tinted-glass windows of the big sports bar in straightaway center.

Seattle avoided a three-game sweep and handed CC Sabathia (7-5) his second loss in 11 starts.

White Sox 4, Royals 1: Mark Buehrle allowed six hits in 8 1/3 innings to improve to 20-8 lifetime against host Kansas City. Bobby Jenks got the last two outs for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Jayson Nix hit a solo homer off Bruce Chen (0-2) as the Royals lost for the sixth time in eight games. They have scored only three runs in their past three games, all losses. Chen went six-plus innings and gave up two runs and five hits in his second major league start since elbow ligament replacement surgery in 2007.

Angels 5, Orioles 2: Bobby Abreu hit two home runs and John Lackey allowed only two hits and a walk over eight innings while striking out seven for host Los Angeles. The multihomer game was the 14th of Abreu's career, his first as an Angel. Both came off Jeremy Guthrie, who gave up nine hits in seven innings.

Aboard the USS SEAWOLF

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- What does it take to become a submariner?
- What is the attraction for the people who sign up for underwater duty?

Read it on
July 12

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Meet them in St. Louis? The AP weighs in on All-Stars

AL

Without regard to fan or player balloting, here are our picks for the 80th All-Star Game — the first in baseball-loving St. Louis since 1966. The teams will be revealed Sunday, and the league that wins gets home-field advantage in the World Series:

NL

First base

Justin Morneau's big numbers for Minnesota earn him the start, barely edging the New York Yankees' Mark Teixeira and Boston's Kevin Youkilis. Russell Branyan is having a surprise season with Seattle. Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera and Tampa Bay's Carlos Pena also make it at a power-packed position. Youkilis, Branyan and Cabrera all have extensive big league experience at third base, so one or two of them could come off the bench and play there.

Second base

Ian Kinsler is the leadoff man with pop who makes Texas' offense go. He gets a slight nod over Aaron Hill, who is having a terrific year for Toronto after missing much of last season with a concussion. Tampa's Ben Zobrist earns a spot here, too. Enjoying a breakout season while filling in for injured Akinori Iwamura, Zobrist can also play the outfield. Boston's Dustin Pedroia, the 2008 AL MVP, falls short this year.

Shortstop

Even at 35, **Derek Jeter** remains a consistent offensive force for the Yankees. His backup is Tampa Bay's Jason Bartlett, previously a light-hitting glove man who has developed a dangerous stick.

Third base

Last season's Rookie of the Year, **Evan Longoria**, makes it all four Rays infielders on the All-Star team. The Tigers finally moved Brandon Inge out from behind the plate for good and let him play third every day. He's rewarded them with great defense (as expected) and plenty of pop (more than expected).

Catcher

Joe Mauer is making a run at .400 with the Twins, and now he's hitting for power, too. His numbers are mind-boggling considering he missed all of April with a lower back injury. The backup is Cleveland slugger Victor Martinez, also having a huge year. He splits time between catcher and first base, but stays behind the plate for this one.

Outfield

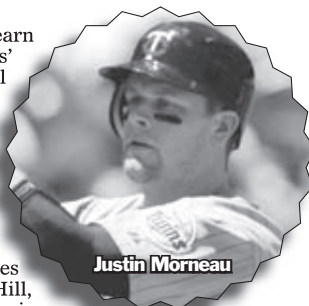
Torii Hunter of the Los Angeles Angels starts in center, flanked by Boston's **Jason Bay** in left and Chicago's **Jermaine Dye** in right. Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki is on the bench and Matt Holliday represents last-place Oakland, which costs the New York Yankees' Johnny Damon a spot.

Starting pitchers

Zack Greinke beats out Halladay for the start, capping a remarkable ride for an elite prospect who walked away from the game for a while because of social anxiety disorder. Greinke would join Bret Saberhagen (1987) as the only Royals pitchers to start an All-Star Game. Also on the staff are Tigers Justin Verlander and Edwin Jackson, Mariners ace Felix Hernandez, Texas' Kevin Millwood, Angels right-hander Jered Weaver, White Sox lefty Mark Buehrle and Boston's Josh Beckett. A spot for Boston's Tim Wakefield would make for a nice story, but his ERA is too high.

Relievers

Yankees closer **Mariano Rivera** recently reached 500 saves. He's joined in an imposing bullpen by Boston's Jonathan Papelbon, Minnesota's Joe Nathan and Baltimore lefty George Sherrill.



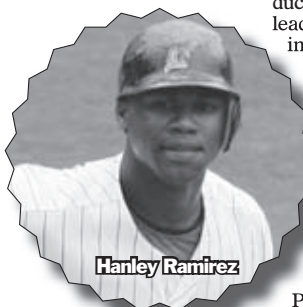
Justin Morneau



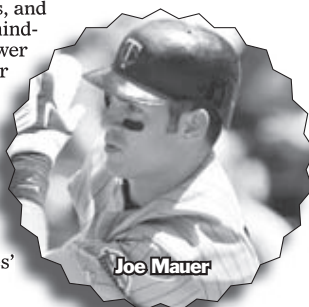
Chase Utley



Evan Longoria



Hanley Ramirez



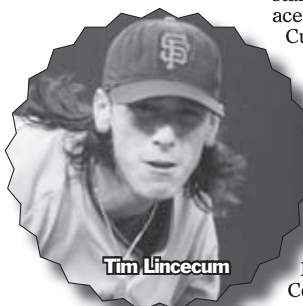
Joe Mauer



David Wright



Mariano Rivera



Tim Lincecum

First base

Stacked with power-hitting stars in the National League, too. Coming off his second MVP award, **Albert Pujols** reached 30 homers before July and was leading the majors in RBIs as well. He's joined by Milwaukee bopper Prince Fielder, San Diego's Adrian Gonzalez, Houston switch-hitter Lance Berkman, Colorado's Todd Helton and Philadelphia's Ryan Howard.

Second base

Chase Utley had hip surgery in the offseason but returned quickly and immediately found his swing. He's a runaway winner, backed up by Pittsburgh's Freddy Sanchez.

Shortstop

Hanley Ramirez is giving the Marlins the pop and production they envisioned when they dropped him from leadoff to the No. 3 spot in the lineup. He has blossomed into one of the game's best offensive players. Houston's Miguel Tejada earns a reserve role.

Third base

David Wright's home run and RBI totals are way down, partly because of the New York Mets' cavernous new ballpark, Citi Field. But he's still hitting for a high average and stealing plenty of bases while trying to carry an injury-depleted team. Behind him is first-timer Mark Reynolds of the Arizona Diamondbacks. His impressive power numbers are enough to overcome all those strikeouts.

Catcher

Perhaps baseball's best defensive backstop, **Yadier Molina** is rewarded with the start in his home ballpark. The Atlanta Braves' Brian McCann also makes it after rebounding quickly from an eye problem that cost him some time.

Outfield

Phillies newcomer **Raul Ibanez** starts in left, assuming he returns from a groin strain without any problems. It's the first All-Star appearance for the 37-year-old pro. Colorado's **Brad Hawpe** is in right and Arizona's Justin Upton slides over from his regular spot in right to play center. Reserves are Milwaukee slugger Ryan Braun, Washington's Adam Dunn and the Dodgers' Matt Kemp, who fills a void in center created by the knee injury that costs the Mets' Carlos Beltran a trip.

Starting pitchers

Strikeout specialist **Tim Lincecum** is following up his Cy Young season with an outstanding encore. He gets the start, just edging Giants teammate Matt Cain and Arizona ace Dan Haren. They are joined by Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto, Florida's Josh Johnson and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Chad Billingsley. Left-hander Ted Lilly represents the Chicago Cubs, denying Milwaukee's Yovani Gallardo a spot in a very difficult snub.

Relievers

Trevor Hoffman (Brewers) and **Francisco Rodriguez** (Mets), both record-setting closers, have been nearly untouchable with their new teams. Give the ball to Rodriguez in the ninth inning; Hoffman already blew a chance to end the NL drought a few years back. This deep bullpen also includes Jonathan Broun (Dodgers), Heath Bell (Padres), Francisco Cordero (Reds) and Ryan Franklin (Cardinals).

Fans: Suspended, slumping stars could be left out

FANS, FROM BACK PAGE

Unlike previous years, the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs weren't dominating the votes. And big stars who were suspended (Manny Ramirez) or slumping (Alex Rodriguez) were on the verge of getting left out.

That's a good thing, because their spots figure to be filled by worthy and exciting newcomers such as Justin Upton and Brandon Inge.

Fans don't get to vote for the pitching staffs. But after such an astute performance this season, maybe it's time that changed. After all, there are tough decisions to be made on the mound.

Zack Greinke or Roy Halladay starting for the American League? Francisco Rodriguez or Trevor Hoffman closing for the NL? Does knuckleballer Tim Wakefield, 42, make his first All-Star team?

"The players are the show," AL manager Joe Maddon of the Tampa Bay Rays said. "My basic job is to pretty much get out of the way."

Rosters were expanded from 32 to 33 players this year, with the extra spot going to a 13th pitcher in each league. But every team must be represented, so the choices remain difficult.

For example, try finding a legitimate All-Star on the scuffling Cubs this season. Not so easy, which is quite a

surprise for a talented team coming off consecutive division titles.

The American League is 11-0-1 since the NL last won in 1996 at Philadelphia's old Veterans Stadium, the longest unbeaten streak in All-Star Game history.

Pujols and his pals would like to end the drought — with the world's most famous Chicago White Sox fan on hand. President Barack Obama plans to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at Busch Stadium.

"I'm really looking forward to it," said Philadelphia's Charlie Manuel, who will manage the NL squad. "It's important that we go in there with the mindset that we're the National League and we're trying to win it."

MLB scoreboard

American League									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	48	30	.615	—					
New York	46	33	.582	2½					
Tampa Bay	44	36	.550	5					
Toronto	42	39	.519	7½					
Baltimore	35	44	.443	13½					
Central Division									
Detroit	43	35	.551	—					
Chicago	41	38	.519	2½					
Minnesota	41	39	.513	3					
Kansas City	33	45	.423	10					
Cleveland	31	49	.388	13					
West Division									
Los Angeles	43	34	.558	—					
Texas	42	35	.545	1					
Seattle	40	38	.513	3½					
Oakland	33	44	.429	10					
Wednesday's games									
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 0									
Boston 6, Baltimore 5, 11 innings									
Minnesota 5, Kansas City 1									
Oakland 5, Detroit 1									
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 2									
N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 2									
Texas 9, L.A. Angels 7									
Thursday's games									
Seattle 8, N.Y. Yankees 4									
Chicago White Sox 4, Kansas City 1									
L.A. Angels 5, Baltimore 2									
Friday's games									
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 2									
Oakland at Cleveland									
Seattle at Boston									
Tampa Bay at Texas									
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City									
Detroit at Minnesota									
Baltimore at L.A. Angels									
Saturday's games									
Seattle (Olson 3-2) at Boston (Penny 6-3)									
Toronto (Halladay 10-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Wang 1-6)									
Chicago White Sox (G.Floyd 6-5) at Kansas City (Hochevar 3-3)									
Detroit (E.Jackson 6-4) at Minnesota (Liriano 4-8)									
Oakland (Mazzaro 2-3) at Cleveland (Pavano 6-7)									
Tampa Bay (Price 2-2) at Texas (Holaday 1-5)									
Baltimore (Berken 1-5) at L.A. Angels (O'Sullivan 2-0)									
Sunday's games									
Oakland at Cleveland									
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees									
Seattle at Boston									
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City									
Detroit at Minnesota									
Baltimore at L.A. Angels									
Tampa Bay at Texas									
Thursday									
Mariners 8, Yankees 4									
Seattle									
New York									
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
ISuzuki rf	4	2	2	2	Jeter ss	4	0	1	0
Brayan 1b	4	1	1	2	Damon lf	4	0	0	0
LoLozz 2b	4	0	0	1	Teixeira 1b	4	0	0	0
MSwamy dh	5	0	0	1	AdRizz 3b	3	1	0	0
Fgtrtz cf	5	2	3	1	Cano 2b	2	2	3	0
Johjim c	3	2	2	0	Swisher rf	3	0	1	1
Lngnhr lf	4	0	2	0	HMatu dh	3	1	2	3
Wdwrd 3b	3	1	2	2	McCar cf	4	0	0	0
Cedeno ss	4	0	0	0	Cervelli c	3	0	0	0
					Posada ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	36	8	12	8	Totals	32	4	7	4
Seattle					New York				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
E-I.Suzuki (3), Teixeira (1), LOB—Seattle 6, New York 5, 2B—I.Suzuki 2 (16), Langerhans (1), Cano (19), H.Matsu (14), HR—Brayan (20), F.Gutierrez (8), H.Matsu (11), SB—I.Suzuki (17), CS—Johjima (1), Langerhans (1), Jeter (2), SF—Woodward, Swisher, H.Matsu.									
Seattle					New York				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Vargas	4	0	4	4	1	2			
Batista W-5,2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1		
M.Lowe H,10	2	1	0	0	0	1			
Aardsma	1	2	0	0	0	1			
New York					Seattle				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Sabatia L,7-5	5½	10	6	6	3	8			
Aceves	2½	2	2	1	0	1			
D.Robertson	1	0	0	0	0	1			
Aceves pitched to 2 batters in the 9th. HBP—by Aceves (Johjima). T—3:04. A—46,142 (52,325).									
White Sox 4, Royals 1									
Chicago					Kansas City				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Pdsdnk lf	4	0	1	1	DeJesse lf	4	0	1	1
J.Nix ss	4	1	2	1	Blmst ss	4	0	1	0
Dye rf	3	0	0	0	Butler 1b	4	0	0	0
Thome dh	4	1	2	0	JGullin rf	3	0	0	0
Fields pr-dh	0	1	0	0	Teahen 3b	3	0	2	0
Koner 1b	4	0	2	0	Olivo c	3	0	0	0
Przyns c	4	0	1	0	Jacobs dh	3	0	0	0
Bckhm 3b	4	0	1	0	Callasp 2b	3	1	1	0
Getz 2b	4	0	1	0	Maier cf	3	0	1	0
BrAndr cf	3	1	0	0					
Totals	34	4	9	3	Totals	30	1	6	1
Chicago					Kansas City				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Buehrle W-8,2	8½	6	1	1	0	1			
Jenks S,19-21	½	0	0	0	0	0			
Kansas City					Chicago				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Chen L,0-2	6	5	2	2	1	5			
Mahay	1½	1	1	1	1	1			
J.Wright	1½	3	1	1	0	0			
Chen pitched to 2 batters in the 7th. WP—Mahay, PB—Olivo. T—2:25. A—17,964 (38,177).									



Los Angeles Angels pitcher John Lackey tosses the ball toward his face after fielding a comebacker hit by the Baltimore Orioles' Adam Jones during the first inning Thursday in Anaheim, Calif. Lackey had a handle on the O's, too, allowing four hits, walking one and striking out seven over eight innings in the Angels' 5-2 victory.

MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Angels 5, Orioles 2										Reds 3, Diamondbacks 2 (10)										Astros 7, Padres 2										Cardinals 5, Giants 2									
Baltimore					Los Angeles					Arizona					Cincinnati					Houston					San Diego					San Francisco					St. Louis				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi					
BRorts 2b	4	0	0	0	Figgins 3b	4	1	3	1	FLOpez 2b	4	0	1	0	Tavers cf	4	0	0	0	Bourn cf	5	2	2	0	ECarer ss	4	1	1	2	Rownd cf	4	1	1	2	BrMyrn ss	4	2	2	0
Adjons cf	4	0	0	0	BAreu rf	4	2	2	4	S.Drew ss	4	0	0	0	L.Nix ph-If	2	0	0	0	Tejada ss	4	1	2	0	Hairstr cf	4	0	2	1	Winn rf-If	4	0	2	0	SchRack 2b-4f	5	1	2	1
Markks rf	4	0	0	0	TRhnt cf	4	0	0	0	Qualls p	0	0	0	0	HRstnJr 3b-ss	5	1	0	0	Brkmn 1b	3	3	2	1	AdGnzl 1b	3	0	0	0	SMolin c	4	0	2	0	Pujols 1b	2	1	0	0
A.Huff 1b	4	0	1	0	Guerr dh	4	0	0	0	Clark ph	0	0	0	0	Voito 1b	6	0	1	1	Ca.Lee lf	5	0	2	1	Kzmwff 3b	4	0	0	0	Whitsd pr-c	0	0	0	0	YMolin c	3	0	1	1
Reimld lf	4	1	1	0	JRiver lf	4	0	2	0	Zavad p	0	0	0	0	BPHLips 2b	5	0	1	0	Blum 3b	4	1	2	4	Blanks lf	4	0	0	0	FWLewis lf	4	0	0	0	Duncan lf	4	0	0	1
Scott dh	4	1	1	0	KMoris 1b	4	0	1	0	J.Upton rf	5	0	0	0	Gomes lf	4	1	1	0	Pence rf	4	0	0	1	EGnzr lf	4	1	1	0	Meddrs p	0	0	0	0	Frnkln p	0	0	0	0
Wgntn 3b-ss	2	0	0	0	Mltzurs 2b	4	1	2	0	Rynlds 3b	4	1	1	1	Masset p	0	0	0	0	KMATsu 2b	4	0	0	1	HBlanc c	3	0	1	0	Uribe ss	4	0	1	0	TGReen 3b	3	0	0	0
Wleters c	3	0	1	1	Napoli c	2	1	0	0	GParr cf	2	1	0	0	Herrer p	0	0	0	0	Qunter c	4	0	0	1	LRdrgz 2b	4	0	1	0	IShikaw 1b	4	0	1	0	Wilmry p	3	0	0	0
Andino ss	2	0	1	0	EAYar ss	3	0	0	0	Monter c	4	0	1	0	Sutton ph-3bl	0	0	0	0	Valdrd p	4	0	0	0	HLanc c	3	0	1	0	Meders 2b	3	0	0	0	Ludwck cf	0	0	2	0
Salazar ph-3bl	0	0	0	0						Tracy 1b	4	0	1	1	Hanig c	3	0	3	0	Quinter c	4	0	0	1	LRdrgz 2b	4	0	1	0	Zito p	1	0	1	0	McClIn p	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	2	5	2	Totals	33	5	11	5	ARomr lf	4	0	1	0	Richar pr-3bl	0	0	0	0	WRDrg p	2	0	0	0	Correla p	1	0	1	0	JMiller p	0	0	0	0	Thurstn 2b	0	0	0	0
Baltimore					Los Angeles					Arizona					Cincinnati					Houston					San Diego					San Francisco					St. Louis				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi					
E—Guthrie (1), DP—Baltimore 2, LOB—Baltimore 4, Los Angeles 6, 2B—J.Rivera (14), 3B—M.Izturis (3), HR—Scott (16), B.Abreu 2 (6), SB—Reimold (1), M.Izturis (7).																																							
	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO																																	
Guthrie L,6-8	7	9	5	5	2	5																																	
C.Ray	1	2	0	0	0	0																																	

NL roundup

Cubs top Brewers with bases-loaded walk

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jake Fox drew a bases-loaded walk off Mike DiFelice to force in the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning Friday, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1.

Ryan Theriot singled off second baseman Craig Counsell's glove with one out in the 10th and went to second on a wild pitch by DiFelice (4-1). After Theriot moved up on a fly ball, the Brewers intentionally walked Milton Bradley. With a 3-0 count on pinch-hitter Geovany Soto, DeFelice also walked him intentionally, loading the bases.

Fox fouled off four straight pitches before walking on a close 3-2 pitch that had DiFelice extending his arms and walking toward plate umpire Bill Welke as the Cubs celebrated.

The Brewers threatened in the ninth when Bradley lost Jason Kendall's high fly to right in the sun. The ball hit Bradley on the arm and fell for a double. Kevin Gregg (3-2) hit Counsell with a pitch, but then got Ryan Braun to pop out to end the inning.

In Thursday games:

Astros 7, Padres 2: The Houston Astros, who once had the "Killer Bs," beat San Diego after a 52-minute delay in the top of the ninth caused when a swarm of bees took over left field.



DENIS POROV/AP

A beekeeper removes a swarm of bees from a chair along the left-field line during the ninth inning Thursday in San Diego.

The drama began with Houston leading 6-1 with two outs in the top of the ninth. San Diego's Kyle Blanks started walking in from left field, trying to get shortstop Everth Cabrera to call time. It ended when a beekeeper obliterated a ball of bees that followed a queen bee under a ballgirl's jacket that was slung over the back of a chair down the left-field line.

The beekeeper arrived 47 min-

utes after play was halted, quickly did his job to applause from the remaining fans, and the game then resumed.

The bees first appeared along the warning track. Later, fans were cleared from several sections along the left-field line as the bees swarmed the chair.

Head groundskeeper Luke Yoder said he thought they were regular honey bees. Groundskeepers thought about putting a trash can over the chair, but didn't want to take the chance trying to bag the bees on his own in case they were Africanized honey bees.

"It looked harmless, but let me tell you there was a big ball of bees under that jacket," Yoder said. "Every one of those bees you saw in the outfield, every single one of them went underneath that jacket."

Geoff Blum had a three-run homer and a run-scoring single in support of Wandy Rodriguez (7-6), who allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings. He struck out five and walked two.

Blum gave the Astros a 6-0 lead when he homered to right on a 2-1 pitch with one out in the fifth, his second. Miguel Tejada opened the inning with a single and Lance Berkman — one of the "Killer Bs" along with the now-retired Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio — followed with a walk.

Berkman scored three runs,

had two doubles, two walks and an RBI. Kevin Correia (5-6) allowed six runs and eight hits in five innings. He struck out three and walked three.

With ace Jake Peavy and Chris Young both on the disabled list, Correia had been San Diego's most consistent starter. He was 4-1 in his previous five starts, with a 2.41 ERA and 29 strikeouts.

Cubs 9, Brewers 5: Derrek Lee hit a grand slam and a three-run homer and drove in a career-high seven runs for host Chicago. The Cubs also got homers from Geovany Soto and Jake Fox as their erratic offense showed some spark against Brewers starter Seth McClung and reliever Chris Smith. Lee hit his 10th career grand slam in the fourth after connecting for a three-run shot in the first. Fox and Soto also had solo shots off McClung (3-2), who gave up seven hits and seven earned runs in 3 1/3 innings.

Ryan Dempster (5-5) got his first victory since May 30 and improved his career record against the Brewers to 10-3. He gave up four runs — three earned — and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings, including Mike Cameron's 13th homer in the second and Prince Fielder's 21st in the sixth.

After Cameron's two-run drive halved the lead, the Cubs drove out McClung with a five-run fourth.

Soto led off the fourth inning with his eighth homer. After a single by Mike Fontenot, a sacrifice and infield single by Fuld, Smith relieved and walked Theriot to load the bases for Lee, who sent another long drive into the left-field bleachers.

Braves 5, Phillies 2: Matt Diaz doubled in the go-ahead run in the eighth as Atlanta completed its first home sweep of Philadelphia in four years. Diaz had his second straight three-hit game as the Braves won their fourth straight. Garret Anderson's first career pinch-hit homer was a two-run shot off Ryan Madson (2-4).

Cardinals 5, Giants 2: Todd Wellemeyer (7-7) rebounded from his shortest start of the season, limiting San Francisco to two runs and seven hits over 7 1/3 innings for host St. Louis. Ryan Ludwick had two hits and two RBIs as the Cardinals won just their third in nine games.

Barry Zito (4-8), who threw 26 pitches before recording an out, went 4 1/3 innings, allowing five earned runs and five hits.

Mets 9, Pirates 8 (10): Ryan Church singled in the go-ahead run in the 10th for visiting New York, which overcame a five-run deficit and then wasted a ninth-inning lead. Adam LaRoche hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth off closer Francisco Rodriguez (2-2).

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Major League Baseball statistics

Through July 2							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							Eckstein SD ADLaRoche Pit BPhillips Cin Renteria SF AdGonzalez SD Berkman Hou JWright NY BMolina SF Dunn Was Fukudome CHC McClouthy Atl Ethier LAD Johan Santana Hermida Fla R Hernandez Cin Bonifacio FA Fowler Col Tulowitzki Col Frederick Atl Charm Kins M Cameron Mil Martin LAD Hairston Jr Cin SDrew Ari Daneke StL Furcal LAD Kendall Mil Kouzmanoff SD Headley SD Taveras Cin Adrianza CHC Hardy Mil Uggla Fla Atkins Col Fontenot CHC Brace Cin Kane Cin Rollins Phi CYoung Ari Giles SD							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	274	45	74	12	39	27.0	265	38	71	11	52	26.8	256	31	68	2	36	26.6	268	48	71	24	48	26.5	260	42	69	17	48	26.5	260	42	69	17	48	26.5	274	26	72	10	46	26.3	269	36	70	20	56	26.0	227	34	59	6	24	26.0	255	41	66	12	45	25.9	280	47	72	15	52	25.7	277	40	68	11	48	25.7	260	27	66	8	29	25.4	244	21	62	5	32	25.4	308	44	77	1	20	25.0	245	40	65	3	18	25.0	245	40	61	12	31	24.9	280	40	67	11	31	24.9	282	46	70	9	34	24.8	258	36	64	13	35	24.8	248	31	61	1	21	24.6	234	40	57	1	22	24.4	222	30	54	5	31	24.3	242	35	58	2	24	24.2	275	35	66	3	17	24.0	224	24	53	0	22	23.7	289	23	68	10	40	23.7	242	23	58	7	29	23.5	249	38	58	1	11	23.3	307	47	68	1	11	23.3	267	37	61	8	32	22.8	271	38	61	15	45	22.8	223	23	50	6	25	22.4	218	20	48	6	27	22.0	275	38	59	18	40	21.5	238	38	50	20	21	21.5	311	41	65	6	27	20.9	231	28	45	6	23	19.5	225	18	43	2	18	19.1																																											
Based on 248 plate appearances							TEAM BATTING							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							Los Angeles San Francisco Atlanta Chicago St. Louis Cincinnati Houston Cleveland New York Colorado Arizona Florida Milwaukee Washington Philadelphia Washington							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	3.55	691	283	305	611	5.24	3.82	660	298	278	589	6.16	3.85	622	292	295	507	5.22	3.86	692	308	233	507	5.28	3.99	651	310	296	514	5.20	4.11	708	319	266	557	5.19	4.21	682	321	268	571	5.17	4.25	694	329	237	504	5.23	4.35	711	333	237	507	5.21	4.36	738	349	264	563	5.17	4.39	715	350	309	597	5.19	4.46	682	347	281	553	5.24	4.65	682	362	289	555	5.23	4.72	674	371	282	541	5.19	5.21	740	393	311	432	5.12																																																																																																																																																																																				
Based on 248 plate appearances							TEAM BATTING							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							Haren Ari Linceseum SF Carpenter StL Cain SF Cueto Cin Jurjriens Atl Gallardo Mil Johnsness Fla Wainwright StL JVazquez Atl Billingsley LAD Duke Pit DDavis Ari WRodriguezHou JLHunt StL JSantana NYM Lily CHC Pineiro StL Lannan Was Fadenophy Hou Kershaw LAD Scherzer Ari Jimenez Col Cook Col Harang Cin Marquis Cin Hagman Hou Peavy SD Leahy StL Oswalt Hou L Hernandez NYM Dempster CHC Kawakami Atl Pelfrey NYM Tavarez Was TPena Ari Marshall CHC Wendtorff Pit Dloster Hou Hampton Hou Maine NYM Harden CHC Correia SD Owings Cin Volstad Hou Maholm Pit Rajohnson SF Garland Ari Zito SF Suppan Mil Loofer Mil Gaudin SD Hamels Phi Blanton Phi Cyoung SD Barnes Was Snell Pit Wellmeyer StL J Sanchez SF De La Rosa Col Moehler Hou Croyvo CHC Niedermayer Fla Moyer Phi MParra Mil							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	115	100	18	114	10	3 1.95	108	84	29	84	6 4 2.49	110	96	32	107	8	3 2.54	113	109	39	74	8 5 2.80	73	66	24	61	6 3 2.85	108	97	24	62	8 3 3.09	107	88	33	86	8 3 3.10	107	113	27	45	6 4 3.10	106	106	28	67	6 7 3.13	96	89	26	66	4 6 3.36	114	130	27	82	4 7 3.39	104	81	42	88	6 5 3.45	116	123	24	84	6 6 3.50	109	96	35	130	8 4 3.54	105	95	34	99	9 3 3.67	85	72	30	71	6 5 3.69	115	98	34	86	7 5 3.85	83	89	29	44	8 5 3.90	94	82	47	92	6 4 3.93	85	84	26	53	5 6 3.93	80	77	35	45	7 4 3.95	88	81	32	80	6 6 4.08	84	76	43	66	6 4 4.09	103	98	38	81	6 5 4.12	95	93	36	50	10 3 4.18	55	63	20	36	3 6 4.23	89	90	34	43	5 6 4.23	55	63	20	36	3 6 4.23	102	99	34	59	3 4 4.24	97	109	37	62	8 4 4.25	99	100	30	114	7 6 4.35	74	80	14	35	4 4 4.38	88	108	15	71	10 3 4.41	95	81	45	71	5 5 4.47	83	88	38	45	6 4 4.75	83	97	27	55	6 4 4.79	92	87	18	74	6 6 4.99	68	67	30	42	7 1 5.00	99	108	30	62	6 8 5.20	86	96	40	55	5 7 5.34	74	90	22	52	4 7 5.45	92	102	34	63	6 7 5.45	92	112	18	68	6 7 5.56	90	94	42	80	4 8 5.62	52	60	23	26	2 6 5.68	80	81	41	54	3 7 5.76	63	81	23	34	4 5 6.11	82	103	22	50	6 7 6.61	51	64	37	42	4 7 7.28	61	69	41	36	2 6 7.42																		
Based on 248 plate appearances							TEAM BATTING							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							New York Los Angeles Pittsburgh Houston San Francisco Atlanta Washington Colorado Florida Philadelphia Milwaukee St. Louis Cincinnati Arizona San Diego							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	2721 <td>381</td> <td>738</td> <td>59</td> <td>360</td> <td>27.1</td> <td>2675</td> <td>346</td> <td>715</td> <td>51</td> <td>336</td> <td>26.7</td> <td>2637</td> <td>327</td> <td>702</td> <td>64</td> <td>311</td> <td>26.6</td> <td>2645</td> <td>314</td> <td>691</td> <td>52</td> <td>295</td> <td>26.1</td> <td>2661</td> <td>329</td> <td>689</td> <td>63</td> <td>314</td> <td>25.9</td> <td>2645</td> <td>332</td> <td>683</td> <td>72</td> <td>319</td> <td>25.8</td> <td>2611</td> <td>392</td> <td>672</td> <td>93</td> <td>374</td> <td>25.7</td> <td>2747</td> <td>367</td> <td>706</td> <td>80</td> <td>346</td> <td>25.7</td> <td>2640</td> <td>394</td> <td>675</td> <td>107</td> <td>380</td> <td>25.6</td> <td>2640</td> <td>373</td> <td>671</td> <td>92</td> <td>366</td> <td>25.4</td> <td>2681</td> <td>353</td> <td>681</td> <td>83</td> <td>336</td> <td>25.4</td> <td>2617</td> <td>323</td> <td>650</td> <td>72</td> <td>308</td> <td>24.8</td> <td>2698</td> <td>322</td> <td>658</td> <td>70</td> <td>306</td> <td>24.6</td> <td>2728</td> <td>343</td> <td>664</td> <td>79</td> <td>323</td> <td>24.3</td> <td>2614</td> <td>294</td> <td>616</td> <td>73</td> <td>284</td> <td>23.6</td>	381	738	59	360	27.1	2675	346	715	51	336	26.7	2637	327	702	64	311	26.6	2645	314	691	52	295	26.1	2661	329	689	63	314	25.9	2645	332	683	72	319	25.8	2611	392	672	93	374	25.7	2747	367	706	80	346	25.7	2640	394	675	107	380	25.6	2640	373	671	92	366	25.4	2681	353	681	83	336	25.4	2617	323	650	72	308	24.8	2698	322	658	70	306	24.6	2728	343	664	79	323	24.3	2614	294	616	73	284	23.6																																																																																																																																																																																				
Based on 248 plate appearances							TEAM BATTING							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							H Ramirez Fla DWright NYM Damon NY Pujols StL Tejada Hou Hawpe Col Braun Mil Sandoval SF Pierre LAD CGuzman Was FSanchez Pit Helton Col IBazex Phi Felder Mil JHorton Ari CJones Atl Theriot CHC Cantu Fla Feliz Phi Blake LAD DLee CHC Lohan LAD WMolina StL Barnes Col Morgan Pit Winn SF CRoss Fla AnLaRoche Pit CJones Atl Kotchman Mil Rasmus StL Reynolds Ari							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	290 <td>50</td> <td>101</td> <td>13</td> <td>58</td> <td>.348</td>	50	101	13	58	.348	293 <td>51</td> <td>99</td> <td>5</td> <td>42</td> <td>.338</td>	51	99	5	42	.338	261 <td>40</td> <td>81</td> <td>8</td> <td>40</td> <td>.336</td>	40	81	8	40	.336	269 <td>62</td> <td>90</td> <td>30</td> <td>77</td> <td>.335</td>	62	90	30	77	.335	269 <td>62</td> <td>90</td> <td>30</td> <td>77</td> <td>.335</td>	62	90	30	77	.335	252 <td>46</td> <td>84</td> <td>13</td> <td>56</td> <td>.333</td>	46	84	13	56	.333	293 <td>56</td> <td>96</td> <td>16</td> <td>58</td> <td>.328</td>	56	96	16	58	.328	272 <td>35</td> <td>89</td> <td>11</td> <td>40</td> <td>.327</td>	35	89	11	40	.327	245 <td>37</td> <td>79</td> <td>0</td> <td>24</td> <td>.322</td>	37	79	0	24	.322	277 <td>40</td> <td>88</td> <td>3</td> <td>18</td> <td>.318</td>	40	88	3	18	.318	304 <td>42</td> <td>96</td> <td>6</td> <td>33</td> <td>.316</td>	42	96	6	33	.316	266 <td>43</td> <td>83</td> <td>9</td> <td>53</td> <td>.312</td>	43	83	9	53	.312	250 <td>41</td> <td>78</td> <td>22</td> <td>59</td> <td>.312</td>	41	78	22	59	.312	282 <td>49</td> <td>87</td> <td>21</td> <td>75</td> <td>.309</td>	49	87	21	75	.309	278 <td>49</td> <td>86</td> <td>14</td> <td>45</td> <td>.309</td>	49	86	14	45	.309	281 <td>43</td> <td>86</td> <td>10</td> <td>33</td> <td>.306</td>	43	86	10	33	.306	297 <td>38</td> <td>90</td> <td>4</td> <td>16</td> <td>.303</td>	38	90	4	16	.303	291 <td>43</td> <td>88</td> <td>10</td> <td>41</td> <td>.302</td>	43	88	10	41	.302	288 <td>34</td> <td>87</td> <td>12</td> <td>47</td> <td>.302</td>	34	87	12	47	.302	270 <td>54</td> <td>81</td> <td>17</td> <td>52</td> <td>.300</td>	54	81	17	52	.300	272 <td>39</td> <td>81</td> <td>9</td> <td>35</td> <td>.298</td>	39	81	9	35	.298	311 <td>52</td> <td>92</td> <td>13</td> <td>44</td> <td>.296</td>	52	92	13	44	.296	271 <td>35</td> <td>80</td> <td>5</td> <td>33</td> <td>.295</td>	35	80	5	33	.295	313 <td>48</td> <td>92</td> <td>5</td> <td>41</td> <td>.294</td>	48	92	5	41	.294	306 <td>52</td> <td>90</td> <td>5</td> <td>34</td> <td>.294</td>	52	90	5	34	.294	262 <td>39</td> <td>77</td> <td>7</td> <td>40</td> <td>.294</td>	39	77	7	40	.294	273 <td>44</td> <td>80</td> <td>3</td> <td>22</td> <td>.293</td>	44	80	3	22	.293	296 <td>46</td> <td>86</td> <td>2</td> <td>19</td> <td>.291</td>	46	86	2	19	.291	297 <td>38</td> <td>96</td> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> <td>.290</td>	38	96	2	20	.290	291 <td>41</td> <td>84</td> <td>7</td> <td>29</td> <td>.289</td>	41	84	7	29	.289	279 <td>31</td> <td>80</td> <td>9</td> <td>47</td> <td>.287</td>	31	80	9	47	.287	268 <td>30</td> <td>77</td> <td>5</td> <td>40</td> <td>.287</td>	30	77	5	40	.287	255 <td>42</td> <td>73</td> <td>11</td> <td>48</td> <td>.286</td>	42	73	11	48	.286	249 <td>35</td> <td>71</td> <td>14</td> <td>48</td> <td>.285</td>	35	71	14	48	.285	298 <td>35</td> <td>89</td> <td>5</td> <td>49</td> <td>.278</td>	35	89	5	49	.278	247 <td>36</td> <td>79</td> <td>5</td> <td>46</td> <td>.278</td>	36	79	5	46	.278	263 <td>41</td> <td>73</td> <td>9</td> <td>38</td> <td>.278</td>	41	73	9	38	.278	278 <td>39</td> <td>77</td> <td>2</td> <td>27</td> <td>.277</td>	39	77	2	27	.277	288 <td>38</td> <td>79</td> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> <td>.274</td>	38	79	2	20	.274	277 <td>40</td> <td>76</td> <td>14</td> <td>48</td> <td>.274</td>	40	76	14	48	.274	259 <td>36</td> <td>71</td> <td>3</td> <td>37</td> <td>.274</td>	36	71	3	37	.274	268 <td>46</td> <td>80</td> <td>2</td> <td>20</td> <td>.272</td>	46	80	2	20	.272	228 <td>18</td> <td>62</td> <td>3</td> <td>30</td> <td>.272</td>	18	62	3	30	.272	236 <td>34</td> <td>64</td> <td>8</td> <td>29</td> <td>.271</td>	34	64	8	29	.271	289 <td>51</td> <td>78</td> <td>22</td> <td>57</td> <td>.270</td>	51	78	22	57	.270
Based on 248 plate appearances							TEAM BATTING							INDIVIDUAL PITCHING Based on 8 decisions							Los Angeles San Francisco Atlanta Chicago St. Louis Cincinnati Houston Cleveland New York Colorado Arizona Florida Milwaukee Washington Philadelphia Washington							274	29	74	1	31	27.0	3.69 <td>662</td> <td>286</td> <td>268</td> <td>519</td> <td>5 23</td> <td>3.96</td> <td>681</td> <td>307</td> <td>257</td> <td>555</td> <td>5 23</td> <td>4.09</td> <td>683</td> <td>320</td> <td>269</td> <td>538</td> <td>5 21</td> <td>4.11</td> <td>697</td> <td>317</td> <td>257</td> <td>589</td> <td>4 23</td> <td>4.19</td> <td>667</td> <td>318</td> <td>294</td> <td>532</td> <td>7 18</td> <td>4.20</td> <td>674</td> <td>324</td> <td>273</td> <td>534</td> <td>7 17</td> <td>4.20</td> <td>706</td> <td>337</td> <td>256</td> <td>573</td> <td>6 13</td> <td>4.24</td> <td>715</td> <td>332</td> <td>218</td> <td>503</td> <td>6 21</td> <td>4.38</td> <td>683</td> <td>328</td> <td>254</td> <td>530</td> <td>6 13</td> <td>4.42</td> <td>709</td> <td>338</td> <td>260</td> <td>432</td> <td>5 21</td> <td>4.48</td> <td>668</td> <td>347</td> <td>289</td> <td>597</td> <td>4 21</td> <td>4.71</td> <td>724</td> <td>356</td> <td>259</td> <td>497</td> <td>5 24</td> <td>5.01</td> <td>777</td> <td>388</td> <td>250</td> <td>470</td> <td>5 18</td> <td>5.35</td> <td>778</td> <td>421</td> <td>317</td> <td>501</td> <td>3 13</td>	662	286	268	519	5 23	3.96	681	307	257	555	5 23	4.09	683	320	269	538	5 21	4.11	697	317	257	589	4 23	4.19	667	318	294	532	7 18	4.20	674	324	273	534	7 17	4.20	706	337	256	573	6 13	4.24	715	332	218	503	6 21	4.38	683	328	254	530	6 13	4.42	709	338	260	432	5 21	4.48	668	347	289	597	4 21	4.71	724	356	259	497	5 24	5.01	777	388	250	470	5 18	5.35	778	421	317	501	3 13																																																																																																																																																																																										
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THE NBA

Yao's future is up in the air

Broken left foot still gives Rockets center trouble, and surgery that could end his career is possible

By HENRY SANDERSON
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Yao Ming, the Houston Rockets' All-Star center, will have to wait up to a week before he knows whether he will need an operation on his broken left foot.

The 7-foot-6 Yao's future is in question amid reports from the team doctor that the hairline fracture in his foot could keep him out of all of next season, and potentially end his career.

"It hasn't been decided yet," Yao's agent, Eric Zhang, told The Associated Press on Friday. "He is still in the process of group consultations of doctors holding different opinions and different plans. The result of the consultations is due within a week."

Before that, there is no way of telling whether surgery will be performed, Zhang said. "We are still in the information-gathering period," he said.

Yao suffered a hairline fracture of the tarsal navicular bone late in a May 8 playoff game against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Rockets said last week that the injury has not healed and he was out indefinitely. Yao played in 77 regular-season games in 2008-09, his most injury-free season since 2004-05, when he played in 80. Before last season, Yao had missed chunks of the previous three seasons because of leg and foot injuries.

In 2006-07, Yao missed 32 games after breaking his right leg. He suffered a stress fracture in his left foot in 2007-08, underwent surgery and sat out 26 games.

Yao is due to make more than \$16 million next season, with a player option for 2010-11 that would pay him more than \$17 million.

The uncertainties come at a bad time for Houston, with Rockets forward Ron Artest agreeing to join Kobe Bryant and the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers.

The Rockets had envisioned Artest, acquired in a trade with the Sacramento Kings last summer, as the final piece of a Big Three with Yao and Tracy McGrady, but those two All-Stars are dealing with long-term injuries. Houston knows it will be missing McGrady for the bulk of next season as he recovers from microfracture surgery on his left knee.

"I know there's been some other players that have gone through some worse — and some of probably the same — situations I've been through, but I want to put it out for other kids to see that. It was rough, but, hey, I'm here now."

B.J. Mullens, the Oklahoma City Thunder's top pick in the June draft

Thunder's top pick overcomes hard times

By JEFF LATZKE
The Associated Press



TERRY GILLIAM/AP

The Thunder's B.J. Mullens, who set a record for Ohio State freshmen by shooting 64 percent from the field, bounced around to a dozen homes with stops at a homeless shelter in between when he was growing up.

B.J. Mullens has seen the worst and made the best of it. When he was growing up, his family bounced around to a dozen homes with stops at a homeless shelter in between. He got shuttled around from one school to the next. His brother got in trouble for dealing drugs.

Then basketball helped change everything.

As he kept growing, opportunities started opening for Mullens. He was accepted to a prep school on scholarship and then committed to Ohio State when he was in the ninth grade and already 6 feet 8. And now, he's a first-round draft pick of the Oklahoma City Thunder.

"I know there's been some other players that have gone through some worse — and some of probably the same — situations I've been through, but I want to put it out for other kids to see that. It was rough, but, hey, I'm here now," Mullens said. "Without that situation being in my life, who knows if I would have made it this far."

Mullens, a 7-footer, never had an idol as a child in Columbus, Ohio. He looked up to Michael Redd, another local kid who went through Ohio State on the way to becoming an NBA All-Star. But Redd provided only a glimmer of hope that a kid from the area could reach basketball's highest level.

He leaned on himself and friends such as Remon Nelson, whose family took him in for a time, to keep his focus on a better life. "I had everything around me that was bad, so if I wanted to do something bad, it was right there in front of my face," he said. "It would have been easy, but I didn't want that to happen for my life and my future."

Mullens spent only one season in college before declaring himself eligible for the NBA Draft. And if not for the 2006 rule that forces players to go to college — or somewhere else, such as Europe, — for a year after high school, he would have entered last spring. He was an even hotter commodity then, before he was relegated to reserve duty for the Buckeyes. He averaged 8.8 points and 4.6 rebounds in setting a record for Ohio State freshmen by shooting 64 percent from the field.

"People didn't get to see me a lot last year because of playing time and my role on the team," he said. "There's definitely things I want to do to show people that I can do that I know I can do. When the time comes, people are going to see it."

Oklahoma City general manager Sam Presti said scouts spent several days watching Mullens practice at Ohio State and envisioned a promising future for him. The Thunder traded up from the 25th to 24th pick to get Mullens, also spending a future second-round pick in the process.

The Thunder also researched Mullens' past and saw that it had created a 20-year-old man who had the kind of characteristics they were seeking as they try to build a young team around stars Kevin Durant, Jeff Green and Russell Westbrook.

"One of the things that really impressed us about B.J. was his perseverance and the fact that he's continued to have focus and follow his dream. He's put himself in position through some tough times, and I think that speaks to the kind of kid that he is," Presti said.

Mullens knows he needs to keep improving, primarily by getting stronger, perfecting his low-post moves and smoothing out his defensive play. But he has made it to an important milestone. He stands to make just more than \$1.9 million in the next two years under the NBA's rookie salary scale, enough to change his life and that of his family.

His real hope, though, is that he can inspire others in his family — and kids everywhere growing up in tough circumstances. "You've got somebody in your family that made it through hard times. This can show them that they can also make it if they're going through something bad in their life," Mullens said. "They've got a hero."

THE NBA

Artest: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

'I'm finally a Laker and I can't wait to get on the court with Kobe'

By CHRIS DUNCAN
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ron Artest is joining Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I am very excited to finally be going to L.A.," Artest said in a statement issued by his agent Thursday night. "For years now, the Lakers have expressed interest in having me play for them, but we could never get the stars to align. I'm finally a Laker and I can't wait to get on the court with Kobe, Pau (Gasol) and the rest of the team, and play for Phil (Jackson). The Lakers really made me feel wanted."

David Bauman, Artest's agent, said the details are being worked out.

"We have entered into discussions with Ron Artest and it is our intention to sign him to a contract at the conclusion of the moratorium period," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement Thursday night.

ESPN.com reported that Artest had agreed to a three-year deal worth \$18 million. Bauman would not confirm those numbers, saying the deal was being negotiated. "We're not quite there yet," Bauman said. "We're still working on it."

Artest, who played for the Houston Rockets last season, decided to join the Lakers on Thursday. "I'm very, very excited to be a Laker," Artest said. "I look forward to helping the Lakers defend their championship, and it will be great to finally not get booed in the Staples Center."

The 6-foot-7 forward made \$7.4 million in his only season with Houston, averaging 17.1 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.3 assists. The 2004 Defensive Player of the Year was also a rugged, one-on-one defender, often assigned to guard the opponent's top scorer.

Bauman said Artest was looking for a championship-caliber team when he became an unrestricted free agent Wednesday.



Ron Artest has a few choice words for Kobe Bryant during their Western Conference playoff series in May. Despite their heated individual battle, the two are close friends. And now they're teammates. Artest, an unrestricted free agent who played for the Rockets last season, agreed to a three-year contract worth \$18 million with the Lakers, according to a report.

CHRIS CARLSON/AP

day. "He wants to win a ring," Bauman said. "He's a winner and a hard worker and he went looking for a team with whom he could find some justification for what he does. He plays his best when he's in that kind of an environment."

Earlier Thursday, Bauman said Artest was being courted by several teams that made the playoffs last season and received text messages from unspecified "superstars" who were trying to lure him to their cities. Bauman would not say if Bryant was one of those players, but acknowledged Thursday night that their friendship was a factor in Artest's decision.

"The whole situation was extremely appealing to Ron," Bauman said.

Artest and Bryant had a feisty individual battle in the second round of the playoffs, as the undermanned Rockets pushed Bryant and the Lakers to seven games. Artest and Bryant often mouthed off at each other, and Artest was ejected from one game for confronting a referee and claiming that

Bryant elbowed him in the neck.

Artest's decision is another blow to the Rockets, who acquired Artest in a trade with Sacramento last summer. The Rockets envisioned Artest as the final piece to a Big Three with Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady, but those two All-Stars are injured.

Rockets general manager Daryl Morey seemed resigned to losing Artest, flying to Las Vegas earlier in the day to meet with Lakers forward Trevor Ariza. The Rockets and Ariza later agreed on a multiyear deal, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because NBA rules prohibit announcing free-agent deals until next week, said the Rockets offered Ariza the mid-level exception for the first year, about \$5.6 million.

The 6-8 Ariza averaged 8.9 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.8 assists for the Lakers last season and will fill Artest's role in Houston's lineup. Houston will be missing McGrady for the bulk of next season as he

recovers from microfracture surgery on his left knee. The Rockets are also awaiting a definitive prognosis on Yao, who sustained a hairline fracture in his left foot during the playoffs. Morey made an aggressive pitch to free-agent center Marcin Gortat shortly after the free-agency period began Wednesday.

Artest was on his best behavior in Houston, but he'll always be remembered as the central figure in the 2004 brawl with Detroit fans when he played for the Indiana Pacers. Artest was suspended for 73 games, the NBA's harshest punishment for a fight. Early in the 2005-06 season, he demanded a trade from Indiana, angering his teammates. He was dealt to Sacramento in January 2006 and meshed well with coach Rick Adelman, who coaches the Rockets.

Two years later, Artest left the Kings in a bitter dispute with the team's ownership.

AP Sports Writer Beth Harris in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Shaq says he's ready for new role as LeBron's protector

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — His nickname hasn't arrived, but his motto with Cleveland is in place. "Win a Ring for the King," Shaquille O'Neal said in announcing his goal to help LeBron James get his first NBA championship.

The Big Benefactor?

Shaq was introduced Thursday for the first time as a member of the Cavaliers, who traded for the 15-time All-Star center last week with the belief that he can end this city's title drought.

Alternately joking, laughing and turning serious when the topic turned to basketball, O'Neal, who has won four titles, said he has a lot left and plans to play three more seasons.

"There's only four or five good centers in this league, and I'm in that number," he said.

Flanked by Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry and coach Mike Brown, O'Neal held court for nearly a half hour. In front of an audience that included Cavs owner Dan Gilbert, the media, season-



Shaquille O'Neal says he understands his role with the Cavs: 'It's LeBron's team. He's the captain. ... My job is to protect the King.'

PHIL LONG/AP

ticket holders, corporate partners and children from a summer camp, O'Neal gave Cleveland fans their first glimpse of what's in store next year — and maybe beyond.

Joined by his wife, Shaunie, O'Neal was calm, comedic and oozing — as always — with confidence. Clutching the microphone and delivering his answers in his unmistakable baritone, the 37-year-old addressed topics ranging from a possible contract extension in Cleveland to James' future to his Twitter page to a budding rivalry with Orlando center Dwight Howard.

The Cavs lost to the Magic in the Eastern Conference finals this season partly because they had no interior answer for Howard. Now they do.

"We will not have to double (team) anybody and you can underline that 100 times. We won't have to double anybody," he said, slapping hands with Brown.

O'Neal has taken shots at Howard, 21, who has stolen Shaq's Superman moniker and is on his own path to stardom. Make no mistake, O'Neal believes he's still the NBA's ruling enforcer.

"I'm still here. I'm a force to be reckoned with. ... You have to come take my spot, and not through Twitter and not through the media, come take my spot. I'm ready to go. As big men in the league, there are two who have done something special during this millennium. I'm one and Tim Duncan is the other. Anyone else has to come upstairs and see the Shogun. I'm still the Shogun."

O'Neal is under contract for one more season, but would like to play three more years. "I would love an extension — who wouldn't," he said, flashing a smile.

"If they offer me a \$35 million-a-year

extension, I'll sign it right now. I won't even read the contract. I'm just here to take care of business, and I know I can help give the city what it's looking for."

Cleveland hasn't celebrated a championship since the Browns won the NFL title in 1964.

"It's LeBron's team," Shaq said. "He's the captain. This is the time in my career where I can fit in. I'm now in the security business. My job is to protect the King, and that's what I'm here to do."

As for a new nickname, he hasn't settled on one yet for Cleveland. "A friend of mine tweeted me with 'The Big Freeze,'" O'Neal said. "I don't know about that one yet."

The 7-foot-1, 325-pounder had difficulty with Phoenix's run-and-gun style. The Suns made just one playoff appearance during his 1½ seasons in the desert, but O'Neal is confident he can adapt to whatever offense the Cavaliers install.

"I'm pretty much able to play any style," he said. "I'm not here to demand 40 or 50 shots. But I would like 30."

"I'm just coming here to do my part and help a damn good team get over the hump."

SPORTS



Eager to win a ring,
Artest joins forces
with defending champs, Page 47

COMMENTARY

Fans deserve a standing 0 for diligent vote

It's easy to pick this guy, ➡
but astute balloting shows
All-Star Game is more than
just a popularity contest

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

Give the fans a hand for an All-Star performance. Albert Pujols, absolutely. Joe Mauer, right on the money. Chase Utley and Evan Longoria, no doubt about it.

Fan balloting for All-Star Game starters has been a contentious issue in baseball for years. Some complain the process is merely a popularity contest that often puts players on the field at the expense of those more deserving.

This season, however, a look at the numbers showed fans were hitting for their highest average in years.

When vote counts were released early in the week, with only a few days of balloting left, most of the players leading at their positions merited those spots.

Pujols was the top vote-getter, as he should be. The big first baseman has been the best player in the game all season and he figures to own the spotlight July 14 at his home ballpark in St. Louis.

But it wasn't just Pujols, an easy selection. Fans were throwing strikes all around the horn.

Utley at second base, Hanley Ramirez at shortstop, David Wright at third for the National League.

In the AL, it was the same thing: Mauer behind the plate, Longoria at third, Jason Bay in the outfield.

Even a couple of close races made sense. Kevin Youkilis vs. Mark Teixeira at first base, though Justin Morneau shouldn't be forgotten. Ian Kinsler was neck and neck with Dustin Pedroia at second, though Aaron Hill was getting overlooked.

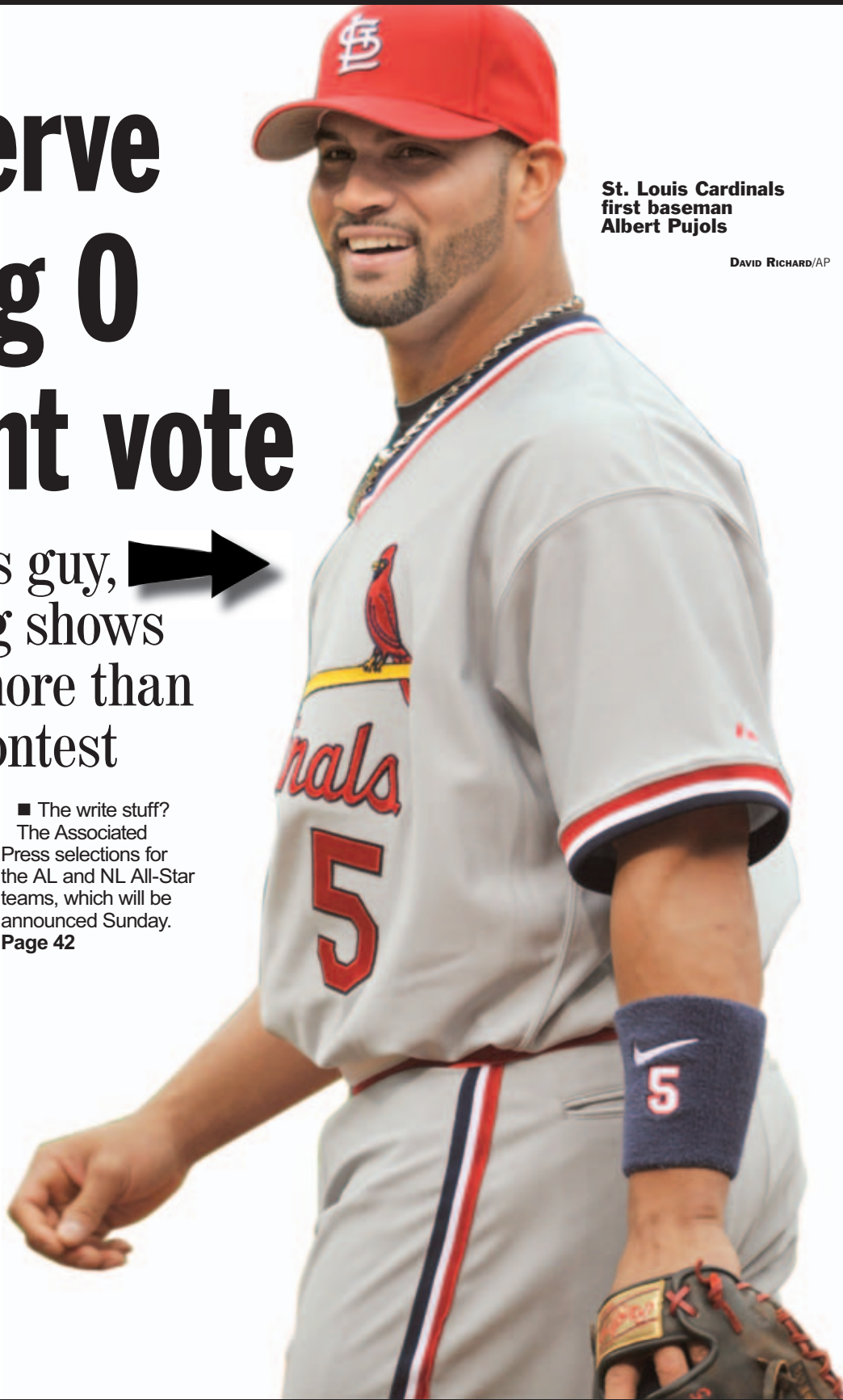
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■ The write stuff?

The Associated Press selections for the AL and NL All-Star teams, which will be announced Sunday. Page 42

St. Louis Cardinals
first baseman
Albert Pujols

DAVID RICHARD/AP



Burnett gets Yankees back on winning track Page 41



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